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CUC probing 3 deaths

By BEA CABRERA bea cabrera@saipantribune.com

he Commonwealth Utilities Corp. is doing its own investigation, parallel to the investigation the Department of Public Safety is doing, on the death of three men at a CUC sewer well last Friday.

At the same time, CUC executive director Gary Camacho expressed the agency's condolences to the families of the victims.

"What happened last Friday was an unfortunate incident and from the management and staff of [CUC], we would like to extend our deepest condolences to the families of the victims and our prayers are with them,"

Camacho said.

Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services spokesman Derek Gersonde identified the victims as Ricky Quijano, 47; Amid Tapon, 41; and Danilo Paglinawan, 53, all of them Filipinos.

The three men who died were employees of a CUC subcontractor,

See CUC on Page 4

DOC's Castro on trial for govt vehicle misuse

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE ferdie delatorre@saipantribune.com

Corrections director Gregory Castro is on bench trial before Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho on charges of misusing a government vehicle.

The trial began yesterday and will continue today at 1:30pm, Tuesday.

Defense counsel Rene Holmes had asked the court to dismiss the case as the Office of the Attorney General allegedly failed to provide notice of the charges against Castro. Saipan Tribune learned that the parties argued

See DOC on Page 4

2 allegedly stole IPI's copper wire

Two men were arrested on Friday for allegedly stealing 39 feet of copper wire worth \$1,018 from the Imperial Pacific International Ltd.'s storage compound in Lower Base last May 3.

Mario Olopai Sablan, 40, and Frank Vincent Tudela Pangelinan, 40, were arrested for theft.

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho imposed a \$50,000 cash bail each on Sablan and Pangelinan yesterday.

A private counsel will be appointed for Sablan, while assistant public defender Jamal Saleh was appointed as counsel for Pangelinan.

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CONSULAR OUTREACH Mel Santos from the office of Philippine honorary consul to the CNMI Glicerio Arago assists with the renewal of Philippine passports during a consular outreach yesterday at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe. KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA See story on Page 5

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BUSINESS

Congress is still trying to send President Trump his first unqualified legislative triumph.

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ASIA

Two specialists who visited Liu Xiaobo said the c Nobel Peace Prize laureate can travel.

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LIFE & STYLE

'Spider-Man: Homecoming" swung past expectations, opening with \$117 million.

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SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE **QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED** ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.



2 TUESDAY, JULY 11, 2017 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

HOW TO TALK ABOUT BULLYING?

Parents, school staff, and other caring adults have a role to play in preventing bullying.

YOU CAN:

- Help kids understand bullying. Talk about what bullying is and how to stand up to it safely. Tell kids bullying is unacceptable. Make sure kids know how to get help.
- Keep the Lines of Communication Open.
 Check in with kids offen

Check in with kids often. Listen to them. Know their friends, ask about school, and understand their concerns.

- Encourage kids to do what they love. Special activities, interests, and hobbies can boost confidence, help kids make friends, and protect them from bullying behavior.
- Model how to treat others with kindness and respect.

"Visit Stopbullying.gov to learn how to be more than a bystander and what you can do to address bullying in your community."



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"This ad has been brought to you by the CNMI Maternal and Child Health Bureau through funds by the US Department of Health & Human Services."

Local

NMI gets \$483K to expand Koblerville youth center

The Office of the Governor was recently awarded \$435,370 for the expansion and enhancement of the Koblerville Youth Learning Center through a block grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

When Typhoon Soudelor ravaged the island in August 2015, Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres, who was then the lieutenant governor, saw the need to find solutions for issues pertaining to the displacement of various individuals and families during emergencies and natural disasters. He made it a priority to improve the existing structure at the Koblerville Youth Learning Center to not only be a shelter in times of disaster, but also as a haven for the youth to grow and develop.

"The expansion and enhancement of the center will serve a dual purpose. Not only will this project allow the center to be used as a refuge during typhoons, but it will also allow the Office of Youth Affairs to offer more programs for the community's youth so that they can thrive in a safe place," Torres said.

"By revitalizing the center,

we will be able to help improve the health and welfare of our youth through the advocacy of a healthy lifestyle and by creating a community-oriented safe space that our kids can go to after school and for other members of our community to avail of its resources," he added.

Special assistant for Youth Affairs Shelane Borja extended her appreciation to the administration and to the Office of Grants Management and State Clearinghouse for their assistance and support throughout the application process.

"We want to include adult basic education, parent leadership workshops, and even job readiness seminars. This is definitely vital for the community as it will assist in curbing delinquent behavior by providing programs that will prepare them for the future," Borja said.

The Office of Grants Management & State Clearinghouse administrator Epiphanio E. Cabrera Jr. noted that the \$435,370.00 in grant assistance provided by the Northern Marianas Housing Corp. will greatly benefit the community.

"By funding this project, the Office of Youth Affairs will be able to provide more programs and trainings to aid in enhancing the quality of life for the residents of Koblerville and surrounding villages. With the expansion, the youth center can offer more than just tutoring services and art and culture programs."

The project proposes to expand the youth center with the inclusion of new restrooms, a stage, improved parking, and better ADA accessibility, among other things.

Torres commended the NMHC, the Office of Grants Management & State Clearinghouse, and the Office of Youth Affairs for their coordinated work on the grant. He noted that the grant award is a step forward for the community.

"It is my hope that we eventually raise the quality for all our youth centers on all three islands. Our children and our community deserve this. Parents deserve the peace of mind of having their kids thrive in a safe space, and our children deserve a space where they can explore, learn, and develop." (PR)



Sablan backs women veterans' bill

NEW YORK, NY—Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America, the leading post-9/11 veterans empowerment organization, applauds Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) for co-sponsoring the Deborah Sampson Act (HR 2452) to fully recognize and support women veterans.

In addition to changing the VA's non-inclusive motto, the Deborah Sampson Act aims to fill critical gaps in VA care for women veterans, including funding peer-topeer assistance and improve legal and support services, data tracking and reporting

and newborn medical care.

"IAVA's over 425,000 IAVA members nationwide and especially those in the Northern Mariana Islands want to thank [Sablan] for stepping up to support women veterans at this critical time. His leadership on the Deborah Sampson Act will add a tremendous boost to our efforts. In IAVA's most recent member survey, only 27 percent of women veteran respondents felt that the American public respects their service," said Paul Rieckhoff, CEO and founder of IAVA. "After 15 years at war, with women on the front lines, we

can no longer tolerate a VA that does not adequately support women veterans, both in its services and in the system's culture. That's why IAVA joined bipartisan members of Congress to introduce the Deborah Sampson Act. Together, we will forever change the landscape in America to better recognize and support women veterans."

Since the bill's introduction, 18 veterans service organizations have signed on as partners, and thousands of veterans and supporters have engaged their members of Congress to encourage their support. The Deborah Sampson Act does the following:

Changes the dated and exclusionary VA motto that currently reads, "To care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow and for his orphan."

Empowers women veterans by expanding peer-topeer counseling, group counseling and call centers for women veterans;

Improves the quality of care for infant children of women veterans by increasing the number of days of maternity care VA facilities can provide and authorizing medically-necessary transportation for newborns;

Eliminates barriers to care

by increasing the number of gender-specific providers and coordinators in VA facilities, training clinicians, and retrofitting VA facilities to enhance privacy and improve the environment of care for women veterans;

Provides support services for women veterans seeking legal assistance and authorizes additional grants for organizations supporting low-income women veterans: and

Improves the collection and analysis of data regarding women and minority veterans, and expands outreach by centralizing all information for women veterans in one easily accessible place on the VA website. More than 345,000 women have deployed since 9/11. Women are the fastest-growing segment of the veteran population and that trend will continue as the number of male veterans simultaneously declines over the next decades.

However, many female veterans are left without the proper care to support their needs when they return from their service.

"She Who Borne the Battle" will change this by providing a foundation of public awareness, local support and policy changes solely targeted at supporting and empowering female veterans. Learn more at SheWhoBorneTheBattle.org. (PR)

Kurata: Kuentai mission to repatriate remains hindered by lack of permits

The Kuentai organization's efforts to repatriate the remains of their countrymen back to Japan are being stymied by the myriad of permits being required by the CNMI government.

Kuentai secretary general Usan Kurata said that they have found over 800 Japanese remains but cannot bring them home to Japan because of all the permits that they were not granted.

Speaking during the Kuentai's second memorial service last Friday at the Aqua Resort Club parking area, Kurata said he and his team need the support of the local government to carry out their mission, which is to exhume the remains of fallen Japanese soldiers, bring them home to their families, and lay them to rest.

In all the years that that Kurata and his team have been on Saipan, he has helped many farmers in the northern area cultivate their land. He said he stumbled upon so many Japanese remains just by cultivating land.

According to Kurata, it broke his heart that he was not able to do anything about the remains, but put them back where they were found because they do not have the permits to take them home.

Rep. Joseph Leepan Guerrero (R-Saipan) said he sympathizes with the organization and that he will look into the situation and do what he can to help find a solution to the problem and to help Kuentai with its mission.

Guerrero said no one should deprive the Kuentai organization of the remains of these fallen Japanese soldiers. According to Guerrero, these remains should be sent home after years of being buried in a foreign land.

According to Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang, the Kuentai organization wants only to bring home the remains of Japanese soldiers and to let them rest in peace with their family.

Apatang hopes that the government will help the organization fulfill its mission. (Kimberly A. Bautista)

American Memorial Park to host Junior Ranger Summer Program

The American Memorial Park and Pacific Historic Parks are inviting Saipan youth, between the ages of 6 and 9 to participate in the Junior Ranger "Underwater Explorer" summer program.

This program provides the youth an opportunity to learn about marine environments and the mission of the park through fun underwaterthemed activities.

Children will experience marine science by actively learning from field explorations and hands-on activities with a focus on oceans and sea creatures such as corals, sea turtles, sharks, and fish. Highlights of the program include arts and crafts, exploring marine environments at the park, and learning about marine life.

The Junior Ranger "Underwater Explorer" summer pro-

gram will be held from July 25 to 27, 2017. Tuesday and Wednesday will run from 9am to 11:30am and on Thursday, the final day, the program will run from 9am to 2pm.

Pre-registration is required with a \$5 refundable deposit. To register your child, stop by the American Memorial Park Visitor Center and complete a registration form. Space for the camp is limited. Applications will be accepted at the park and participants will be enrolled on a first come, first serve basis.

To learn more about these programs or other happenings at the park, contact American Memorial Park teacher ranger Riya Nathrani at 234-7207 or 2020 or ranger Brooke Nevitt at 234-7207 x 2020 or email brooke_nevitt@nps.gov. (NPS)



shown. See dealer for more details. Maximum credit card payment toward vehicle purchase is \$2,500. While supplies last. Tucson GL total price is \$23,995 less 20%

down payment. Financed at 5.9% APR for 60 monthly payments of \$370.22 or \$170 per paycheck based on 26 pay periods per year. Total deferred price is \$22,213.20.

Woman accuses hotel employee of sex assault

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

Kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com

A man was arrested after being accused of sexually assaulting a woman in an elevator.

Darwin Barbo, 34, allegedly sexually assaulted a woman on June 28, 2017, in the elevator of the Kensington in San

Roque.

According to police detective Catherine B. Pangelinan, the woman reported the sexual assault to the Office of the Attorney General two days after the incident. The alleged victim did not report the incident to the police because she was allegedly scared of the police.

A bail of \$5,000 was set for Barbo's release. He was allowed to post a 10 percent bail. The preliminary hearing is today, July 11.

The alleged incident occurred at the Kensington after the woman met with Barbo about a hotel order. Barbo is the purchasing supervisor of the hotel.

The woman told Pangelinan that it started after Barbo followed her into the elevator, causing her to feel uneasy. Barbo allegedly cornered her inside the elevator.

The woman pushed him away and waited for the elevator door to open. Once they were out of the elevator, Barbo allegedly followed her out before going his separate way after she had raised her voice at him to leave her alone.

According to Pangelinan, the woman was emotional and uncomfortable as she reported the incident, but needed the help because she did not want to deal with Barbo after the alleged assault.

Apatang announces re-election bid

Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang will be running for reelection in the 2018 general elections.

To officially announce his participation in the upcoming elections, Apatang will be hosting a fundraiser.

Apatang invites the community to join him and his supporters this Friday, July 14, and help support him.

The fundraiser will also celebrate Apatang's 69th birthday.

Apatang served in the U.S. Army in Vietnam. After his career as a serviceman, he then came back to the island to serve in the local government.

Apatang served for 10 years as a member of the House of Representatives

Preliminary hearing will be

According to police, two of-

ficers were heading north by

the Gov. Eloy S. Inos Peace

Park along Industrial Drive

in Lower Base when an em-

ployee of Imperial Pacific

flagged them down last May

3 at 9:43am to report a copper

The Imperial Pacific em-

ployee disclosed that he saw

Sablan pulling copper wire

through the chain link fence

surrounding the Imperial Pa-

cific storage compound. Pan-

gelinan allegedly served as a

STOLE

From Page 1

wire theft.

on July 17 at 9am.

and ran for mayor.

Apatang said he plans to retire from politics after serving his second term as Saipan mayor.

Apatang made it his mission as mayor to beautify the CNMI through picking up stray dogs off of the streets for the safety of the community, junk car removal, and by constantly maintaining the cleanliness of every village on Saipan.

For those interested in participating in the fundraiser, it will be held on Friday at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan. The fundraiser will be a dinner fundraiser with an entrance fee of \$50. The event is open to the public. (Kimberly A. Bautista)

GCA-Kagman to host Kids' Camp God's presence in their lives

The Grace Christian Assembly-Kagman is sponsoring a three-day Kids' Camp on July 12, 13, and 14, from 3pm to 6pm. that is open to children ages 4 to 12 years old.

The camp's theme will be "Deep Sea Discovery-God is with us wherever we go!" where children will be taught that God is always with them. They will explore and learn about serving God by serving others.

The camp includes fun activities like a photo booth, bouncy house, crafts, live music, sports, games, face painting, prizes, and food.

GCA-Kagman is located next to Ling-Lin store in Kagman. For more information call pastor Dan at 287-7323. (PR)



CUC board nominee, among others to go before Senate

The Senate is getting ready to approve several nominations today on Capitol Hill at 1:30pm.

The Senate Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations has already released their committee reports for the appointments of Vincent Attao as Department of Corrections commissioner, Weston Thomas Deleon Guerrero as a Commonwealth Utilities Corp. board member, and Charles Cepeda and Zenie Mafnas as members of the Northern Marianas College board of regents.

The most recent public hearing was held last Thursday.

A structural engineering graduate of University of California, San Diego, Deleon Guerrero said that following the CUC ordeal surrounding the procurement of a 10-megawatt generator is what triggered his inspiration.

"My first priority is to be familiar with everybody at CUC. I would be open to the floor for everyone in CUC and that the board—myself at least—is going to hear them out on issues that they have,"

Deleon Guerrero is a graduate of Mount Carmel School in 2005. He is currently with

Hofschneider Engineering. Prior to his current job, Deleon Guerrero was acting building safety official at the Department of Public Works.

Mafnas and Cepeda, who are the nominees for the NMC board also previously served the college as past appointees. Mafnas was appointed by Lt. Gov. Victor B. Hocog, while Cepeda acted as board chair back in 2008. (Erwin Encinares)

look out. The two officers saw Sablan and Pangelinan standing next to their car on the shoulder of the northbound lane. Behind them was a chain link fence.

The trunk of the car was open.

A third man wearing a pair of camouflage pants and dark shirt ran away when he saw the officers.

The two officers recognized Sablan and Pangelinan and approached them. The officers saw a roll of copper wire lying on the ground next to the car's open trunk.

The report did not mention whether Sablan and Pangelinan were arrested at that time.

The witness said he was relieved to see the two officers driving in the area so he immediately stood in the middle of the road and flagged them down.

Another witness told police that that he also saw Sablan, Pangelinan, and the third man stealing the copper wires.

The police report did not indicate whether the third suspect had been identified. (Ferdie de la Torre)

CUC

From Page 1

USA Fanter Ltd., which had been contracted to perform rehabilitation work on the sewer system at Pakpak Beach in San Antonio. It is believed that the men died due to inhalation of toxic gas and drowning.

CUC deputy director William Gilmore said that USA Fanter was in the process of doing final tests on the system, which they will turn over to CUC.

"The plan of the day was to rehabilitate the 24-foot sewer well. The procedure was to clean and clear the well, then the men will go down to install the baffle which will help us control the speed of water going into the wet well then

come up to pump in the effluent...and then pump the effluent out. Effluent is wastewater that, if left sitting for a long period of time, naturally produces toxic gas on its own. Once those are done, clean the wet well again with clean water so it is ready for use, Gilmore said.

"The information we received was that one of the three men...went down first to check. He went down below the wet well level and was affected by hydrogen sulfide. When the two other guys saw he was collapsing, they all started yelling and went down to help him but also got affected by hydrogen sulfide," Gilmore said.

While the case is currently under investigation by the police, CUC is also conducting its own investigation of the incident.

"The site is currently secured by the DPS until this process is completed. We do not want to impede the investigation in any way. We want to give respect to all the parties involved and do what they need to do. We are working on our own investigation. After that, we have to move forward in completing this project." Camacho said.

The president of USA Fanter, Steve Oian, said in a statement that their staff and employees' hearts, minds, and prayers are with their deceased co-workers and their families. "We respectfully request those of the press to respect the privacy of the families and us as

co-workers of the deceased during this period of bereavement and mourning."

"USA Fanter will work wholeheartedly with government authorities who are or will be responsible for investigating this very unfortunate and regrettable tragedy.," he added in the statement.

"Now is the time for prayers and to console the families of our co-workers we lost. USA Fanter reserves any comments at this time and defer to the authorities to comment publicly on this tragic accident. USA Fanter's immediate concern is pay our respects to our co-workers, ensure that their remains are properly and promptly repatriated to their homes and to their respective families."

DOC

From Page 1

the issue all day.

Camacho took the matter under advisement.

Last May 25, Castro, appearing pro se (without a lawyer), pleaded not guilty to three traffic charges: violation of the rule that government vehicles are only to be used for official government business; for driving a tinted government vehicle; and for using a government vehicle without official marks. The three charges carry an imprisonment penalty and a \$1,500 fine.

The Office of the Public Auditor allegedly caught Castro using a Corrections vehicle, a 2015 Nissan XTERRA, to go to the Marianas Country Club in Marpi in the morning of March 15, 2017, to play golf. He was cited and the vehicle impounded.

In an earlier interview, the 58-year-old Castro denied the allegation, saying he was doing business at the club when he was issued a citation.

Castro admitted playing golf with his brother, but said they also discussed the possibility of having the Kagman Community Health Center as an alternative healthcare provider for inmates.

Lawyer sues, saying two dogs attacked him

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com REPORTER

Charles P. Reyes is alleging that two dogs attacked him while he was walking his brother's dog near his property in Gualo Rai in 2015. Now, he is suing two companies that allegedly owned the dogs.

The two dogs, Reyes said in the lawsuit, were a pitbull and a doberman pinscher.

As a result of the attack, Reyes said he had severe lacerations on the right calf and had to be brought to the Commonwealth Health Center in an ambulance.

Reyes is suing Hing Yip Enterprises Inc. and T. K. Enterprises (Saipan) Corp. for negligence and strict liability.

Reyes, who is representing himself in the case, asked the Superior Court to hold the two companies liable to pay him \$300,000 in damages for physical and emotional pain and suffering, physical impairment, mental anguish, inconvenience, permanent scarring, and disfigurement. He demanded a jury trial.

According to Reyes, he was walking his brother's dog when a woman who lives near him, believed to be Chen Jie Mei or a member of the Chen family, called him toward the property boundary line.

Reyes said that, as he approached the wall separating the two lots, a brown pitbull and a doberman pinscher leapt over the wall and began attacking his family's dog. During the melee, Reyes said, the pitbull bit his right calf, causing lacerations and bleeding.

The lawyer said the bite later required several stitches, resulting in permanent scarring and disfigurement.

He said he also suffered wounds to the right hand and left forearm.

Reyes said he had with him a pocketknife that he used to defend himself from the attack. He said he fell back and was disarmed of his pocketknife following the leg bite as the dogs crashed on top of him.

While the doberman pinscher eventually fled the scene, Reyes said the pitbull only stopped attacking him after the dog eventually died as a result of wounds from his knife.

As a result of the incident, Reyes said, he was not able to walk properly for several months and suffered persistent aches and pain, discomfort, and nerve damage that persists up to the present.

Reyes said that prior to the attack, he already repeatedly warned the residents of the leased lot to secure their dogs.

The lawyer cited that on March 12, 2015, he noticed a black doberman pinscher on his property and immediately notified both Chen Dingfa and Chen Jie Mei, who were on site, of the need to secure the dogs.

Dingfa is said to be president and treasurer of Ying Hip Enterprises. Mei is vice president and secretary of Ying Hip Enterprises and secretary of T. K. Enterprises.

Reyes said that on March 31, 2015, he noticed a brown pitbull loose on his property and again asked Mei to secure her dog

Reyes said on several other occasions he repeatedly asked the residents of the leased lot to secure their dogs on the property, especially the pitbulls.

Last month, Reyes filed a lawsuit against a tour agent for allegedly repeatedly entering his property in Gualo Rai without his consent to gain access to an adjacent land and

unload a large shipping container of goods in 2015.

Reyes sued Crystal Star Corp. for trespass to land and conversion.

Crystal Star is operating as a "tour agent" engaged in the "jungle tour and restaurant" line of businesses.

Chen Li is listed as president, treasurer, director, and shareholder of Crystal Star Corp. Chen Dingfa is listed as the director and secretary.

Reyes asked the Superior Court to hold Crystal Star Corp. liable to pay him damages in unspecified amount. He also asked the court to issue a permanent injunction preventing the corporation from trespassing on his property.

Philippine consular team here in outreach to Filipino nationals

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA kimberly_bautista1222@gmail.com

The Philippine Consulate General in Agana, Guam, currently has a team on Saipan for a consular outreach that started yesterday, July 10. The team will be here on Saipan until Thursday, July 13, 2017.

Consul Edgar Auxillian is leading this month's consular mission, in coordination with Philippine honorary consul to the CNMI Glicerio Arago.

The consular outreach is being held at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

According to Auxillian, the purpose of the outreach is to offer consular services to Filipinos who are currently living on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota, mostly to renew passports.

In the next few days, the consulate aims to reach out to 500 Filipino citizens who have previously signed up to renew their passports. The consular team will capture their bio-

metrics information for the renewal of passports.

The outreach offers passport renewal applications, new passport applications, reports of marriage, reports of birth, and reports of death.

According to Auxillian, while he is here on Saipan, he will also look into the deaths of the three Filipinos who died last Friday while doing work on a Commonwealth Utilities Corp. sewer.

Auxillian and Arago will coordinate with the company and with the authorities to obtain details regarding the deaths. The consulate will conduct this investigation in order to fulfill its duties and repatriate the remains.

"On behalf of the Philippine Consulate General, we give our heartfelt condolences to the families for this unfortunate incident," said Auxillian.

For those interested in availing consular services, the consular outreach program will continue until July 13, 2017.

No probable cause found to charge Lizama with failure to update info

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho has found no probable cause to charge a registered sex offender for failing to update his information with the Sex Offender Registry Unit.

At a preliminary hearing in the case against Alvin P. Lizama last week, Camacho determined that there is no probable cause to believe that crimes were committed

The charges against the 34-year-old Lizama were later dismissed. That means the government may re-file the case in the future.

Assistant attorney general Jonathan Glass Jr. called to the witness stand the officer in charge of the case.

Assistant public defender Nancy Dominski served as counsel for Lizama.

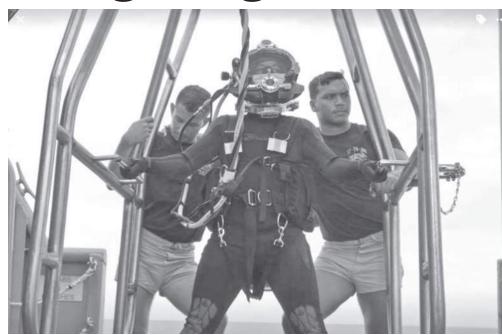
According to police, Lizama failed to notify the Sex Offender Registry Unit when he left Tinian to come to Saipan.

Lizama, however, explained that he did not notify Tinian and Saipan Sex Offender Registry Units because he was not planning to stay on Saipan. He said, he however, found a job on Saipan.

Lizama pleaded guilty to sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree in 2013. He served prison term and was granted parole and subsequently released on Dec. 15, 2014, according to court records. (Ferdie de la Torre)



Manglona graduates from Naval Diving School



Lt. Paul A. Manglona, Jr., a civil engineer corps officer in the U.S. Navy, graduated Monday, July 10, 2017, from the Naval Diving and Salvage Training Center in Panama City Beach, Florida, where he trained for four months to qualify as a joint diving officer.

The vision of NDSTC is to develop the "whole divermind, body and heart—with the skills and confidence to successfully complete missions and integrate with all combat forces to offset our adversaries in the undersea domain."

Manglona is certified as a

professional engineer in the state of Arizona. His personal decorations include the Army Commendation Medal. Navv Achievement Medal, Marine Corps Achievement Meda, and various service and campaign medals.

In September 2017, Manglona will be reporting to Virginia Beach, VA, where he will serve as the executive officer of Underwater Construction Team 1.

Manglona attended Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja on Rota, and graduated from Fr. Duenas Memorial School in Guam in 2006. He then

went on to earn a bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering from Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio in 2010, and a master's degree in Ocean and Resources Engineering from the University of Hawaii at Manoa in 2016.

After commissioning at Officer Candidate School in September 2010, Manglona reported to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 40, Port Hueneme, CA. During his first tour, he deployed to Afghanistan, Okinawa, and Timor Leste where he served as the material liaison officer

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO Lt. Paul A. Manglona, Jr., right, a civil engineer corps officer in the U.S. Navy, undergoes diving training at the Naval Diving and Salvage Training Center in Panama City Beach, Florida.

and detail operations officer.

In September 2012, Manglona was temporarily asthe 30th Naval Construction Regiment, Port Hueneme, CA. While there, he served as an action officer in the Theater Security Cooperation Operations Department.

In February 2013, he reported to Expeditionary Combat Readiness Center, San Diego, CA. After a three-month train-

signed, for six months, to ing pipeline, he deployed to Afghanistan as the team engineer for Provincial Reconstruction Team Farah.

In December 2013, Manglona reported to Naval Facilities Engineering Command Hawaii and served as the facilities support contracts manager and also as a construction manager.

Rota Cliff Fishing Derby on July 28-30

Fishermen throughout the Marianas are gearing up for the 2017 Rota Cliff Fishing Derby on July 28-30, 2017. Organizers say competitors from Saipan, Tinian, and Guam are expected to join fishermen from Rota for the annual event.

The designated derby fishing sites are As Matmos, Pona Point, and Mt. Taipingo. Registration is \$25. Derby orientation will be at 5pm on July 28 at the Guata Beach Park, followed by the start of the derby. The derby will end at 10am on July 30, followed by the awards banquet at 1pm at Small Island.

"We're pleased to again be preparing with the Rota Mayor's Office to welcome fishermen for our cliff fishing derby later this month," said Sandra Atalig, Rota field operations supervisor at the Marianas Visitors Authority office on Rota.

Prizes will be given for the

most variety, biggest fish, and for total weight.

Cash prizes will be awarded for the Top 3 finishers in the categories of biggest fish and total weight. First prize is \$400, second prize is \$200, and third prize is \$100.

The Top 4 finishers in the most variety category will receive in-kind donations from Ambros Inc. The first prize is a rod and reel, second prize is a cooler, third prize is a Bud Light beach chair, and fourth prize is a gift pack.

In the total weight category, the prizes are \$300 for first prize, \$200 for second prize, and \$100 for third prize.

The weekend event is organized by the Rota Mayor's Office with support from Rota Municipal Council, Rota Legislative Delegation, Department of Public Safety, Department of Fire & Emergency Services, Ambros Inc., and the MVA.

For complete rules or to register, contact special assistant for Programs and Grants Aubry Hocog of the Rota Mayor's Office at 532-9451 or aubryhocog@gmail.com or Sandra Atalig of the MVA at 532-0327 or satalig@mymari-

Meanwhile, the Rota Mayor's Office will be hosting a youth fishing derby at the Teteto Beach on Sunday, July 23, from 9am to 4pm.

Interested participants must fill out application forms that are available at the Rota Mayor's Office. Participants must be ages 5 to 8 and 9 to 12.

There will be an orientation at the Teteto Pavilion on Sunday, July 23, at 8:30am.

Cash prizes will be given to the participant who collects the most number of fish. Prizes are \$75 for first place, \$50 for second place, and \$25 for third place. (MVA, Va'ina Lizama)



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Office of the Secretary of Public Works





INVITATION FOR BIDS **DPW-17-IFB-023**

SUPPLY, DELIVERY & INSTALLATION OF NEW PERIMETER FENCE FOR THE SUBSTANCE ABUSE & REHABILITATION FACILITY, SAIPAN

Governor Ralph Dlg. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for Supply, Delivery & Installation of New Perimeter Fence for the Substance Abuse & Rehabilitation Facility, Saipan Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on or after July 11, 2017 at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations currently in effect."

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS. NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITUES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on <u>July 27, 2017, 9:00 a.m. local time</u> at the project site, Saipan. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on <u>August 11, 2017</u> to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

Sealed bids must be marked "DPW-17-IFB-023". For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascencion Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. local time August 16, 2017. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time, August 16, 2017. and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement (2000) for via e-mail t

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascencion Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. local time, August 30, 2017. However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 10:30 a.m. local time, on August 16, 2017.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000,00) a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashiers check or other form acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Surety requiring approval of the Attorney General must be pre-approved prior to bid submission. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check. "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

e bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations §70-30.3-245 The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than \$25,000.00. Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit

- A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations)
- exceed the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable

Acceptable assets are only:

- US Gov't Securities
- Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
 Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
 Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is Ninety (90) calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages for delays beyond the established completion date will be assessed at the rate of One Hundred (US\$100.00) for each and every day the work is delayed beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection

JAMES A. ADA

HERMAN S. SABLAN

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

CCA support meeting this Thursday

All people facing cancer, their family members, and caregivers are invited to the next Commonwealth Cancer Association support meeting on Thursday, July 13, starting at 5:30pm at the Hyatt Regency Saipan's Chamolinian Room. To RSVP or for more information, call the CCA at 682-0050 or email at ccamarianas@ gmail.com or cca@ccamarianas.org. (PR)

VA social worker to visit Saipan

Tiare Peterkin, a licensed clinical social worker and suicide prevention coordinator with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Pacific Islands Health Care Systems, will be visiting Saipan for the first time on July 11-12 to conduct outreach among veterans here and train providers on the VA's services and resources for veterans in crisis. (PR)

Ongoing gambling survey

The Substance Abuse & Rehabilitation Program is conducting a "Gambling Survey" to gather baseline data in order to help determine if a further comprehensive screening tool or assessment is needed in regards to gambling in the CNMI. An online version of the survey can be taken at: https://www.surveymonkey. com/r/FDKXYNH. The last day to complete the online survey is this Saturday, July 15, 2017. The community is highly encouraged to take the survey. For more information, contact Shawnalei Ogumoro of the SAR Program at (670) 323-7277 or email at shawnalei.ogumoro@gov.mp. (PR)

PH consular outreach on Saipan

The schedule for biometrics capturing of the Philippine epassport applications is now available. A team from the Philippine Consulate General in Agana, Guam will be on Saipan on July 10-13 (Monday to Thursday), at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe for biometrics capturing of e-passport applications. All e-passport applications require "personal appearance." Wear proper attire (shirt with collar). For more information and confirmation, call (670) 233-6293 and ask for Mel Santos. To verify if you are on the list, go to https://www.facebook.com/ PCGAgana/. (PR)

WSR now accepting registrations

William S. Reyes Elementary School is now accepting registration for new and returning students for school year 2017-2018. Parents and guardians will need the following documents: updated health certificate, updated student insurance/Medicaid, certificate (new students), legal guardianship documents (if applicable/must be issued by a U.S. court system; affidavit and power of attorney do not apply). If legal guardianship documents were issued by a foreign court system, all documents must be translated and certified through a U.S. court system. Visit the school to register. Contact the school at 664-3972 or 237-3542. (PR)

GMS registration

Green Meadow School is now accepting registration for new and returning students for first to eighth grade for school year 2017-2018. Visit the GMS business office in Chalan Kiya or Gualo Rai and pick up the registration form. We are also opening registration for first grade at the Gualo Rai branch. For inquiries call 235-2185, 233-6452 or 483-6452. (PR)

SAIPAN TRIBUNE TUESDAY, JULY 11, 2017 **7**





2009 Nissan Cul FWD, 4-cyl, Red, Au 2011 Hyundai Tucson GLS SUV 4-Doors, 4-Cyl, Auto, 2WD, Black, STK#U17-056P





*42,899



2017 Yaris LE, Hatchback Sedar 4-Doors, 4-Cyl, Auto, FWD, Gray, STK#U17-059P *44 ST 8, 299



966,61° wow



2013 Tacoma Access Cab, 4x4 Manual, Gray, STK#R17-015F *820,199*



NOW \$20,399 2016 Toyota Corolla LE 4-door Sedan, Red, 4-Cyl, 1.8,



2017 PreRunner 4x2 Access Cab Silver, STR# 11/-10319 WAS \$31,599 NOW \$29,899*

2014 Sienna LE van 8-pax, V6, Auto, White, STK#R17-013F

*23,399

WAS \$23,399 NOW \$22,199*

*820,999

,666⁽ to, STK#U17-040R

NOW \$20

*820,999

2016 Corolla LE Gray 4-Dr, FWD, Au

2015 Mazda CX-5, Grand Touring Sport Auto, 4-Cyl, AWD, Red, STK#U16-151T Below KBB Suggested Refer Material

2016 Toyota Corolla LE 4-door Sedan, Red, 4-Cyl, 1.8,

NOW \$30,199

2015 Highlander LE, FWD 4-Cyl, Auto, Red, STK#R17-017F



2015 Sienna LE van 8-pax, V6, Auto, Beige, STK#U17-058R

2015 Toyota Sienna LE 8-pax Van, Red, 6-Cyl, STK#U17-050R

2015 Toyota Sienna LE 8-pax Van, Black, 6-Cyl, STK#U17-049R

34,499

Now \$33,199

2015 4Runner SR5 4x4 3rd Row, Red, STK#U17-052T

2016 PreRunner 4x2, Double Cab Silver, STK#U16-141P

WAS \$36,699

*32,099

*34,499

*On approved credit. Conditions apply. See dealer for details. Fees not included. Mileage may vary.

*34,999





2016 4Runner 4X4 SR5 3rd Row, Gray, STR#T16-11080 WAS \$40,999 NOW \$39,9999*



2016 Tacoma TRD 4x4 Double CabLong Bed, Gray, STK#U17-051T **WAS \$42,899** *41,199



2016 Tundra Crew Max SR5 Gray, 4WD, Auto, STK#U17-006F

Gray, 4WD, Auto, STK#U17-006F WAS \$51,599 NOW \$48,599*

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2 men get prison sentences in separate 'ice' cases

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE REPORTER

Superior Court Presiding Judge Roberto C. Naraja has slapped a two-year prison term against a man for illegal possession of methamphetamine or "ice" and for receiving a stolen property on Tinian, and sentenced another man to three years imprisonment for illegal possession of "ice" on Saipan.

Naraja sentenced Christopher Boki Evangelista to two years imprisonment for illegal possession of a controlled substance and one year imprisonment for receiving stolen property.

In a separate order, Naraja imposed a three-year prison sentence on Jian Feng for illegal possession of a controlled substance.

In Evangelista's case, Naraja said the sentence in the matter of receiving stolen property shall run concurrently with the sentence in the illegal possession case. It means that Evangelista shall serve only a total of two years for both cases.

Evangelista was given credit for time served. He is expected to complete his prison term on Jan. 24, 2018.

Evangelista, 54, was or-

dered to pay a \$2,000 fine and \$100 in court assessment fee.

At a bench trial on Jan. 14, 2016, Naraja found Evangelista guilty of receiving stolen property. The judge accepted the parties' stipulation to impose the maximum sentence of one year.

On Feb. 1, 2016, the Office of the Attorney General charged Evangelista with one count of trafficking of controlled substance and a count of illegal possession of a controlled substance.

Evangelista and counsel signed a plea deal to resolve the offenses without going to trial. He pleaded guilty

to one count of illegal pos- mant purchased \$50 worth session of a controlled substance and accepted the maximum sentence of one-year imprisonment for receiving stolen property.

The government agreed to dismiss the trafficking of controlled substance charge.

Evangelista was one of seven persons arrested on Tinian on Feb. 12, 2016.

Police said during a controlled buy operation on Jan. 6, 2016 their informant managed to purchase \$50 worth of "ice" from Evangelista and two others in front of Poker Club.

Police said their infor-

of "ice" from Evangelista on Feb. 1, 2016.

In April 2015, police arrested Evangelista and a woman in connection with a burglary at Island Store on Tinian in March 2015 in which 125 cartons of cigarettes worth about \$4,000 were stolen.

Police's investigation led to the identification of Evangelista and two others for allegedly conspiring to sell cartons of stolen cigarette at various stores on the island.

In Feng's case, Naraja sentenced the defendant to three years imprisonment, with credit for time served. The defendant is expected to be released on Dec. 13, 2019.

Feng, 30, was ordered to pay a \$2,000 fine and \$100 in court assessment fee.

The OAG charged Feng with one count of illegal possession of a controlled substance. He signed a plea deal with the government and pleaded guilty.

According to the factual basis of the plea agreement, on Oct. 27, 2016 on Saipan, Feng knowingly possessed crystal methamphetamine.

CNMI Drug Enforcement Task Force arrested Feng in December 2016.

GoPro goes to the Marianas



GoPro digital influencers inspect the Imperial Pacific Resort on June 29, 2017, during their tour organized by the Marianas Visitors Authority.

The Marianas Visitors Auand videos are planned to be thority recently hosted global uploaded not only on the influencer's SNS channels, but action camera brand GoPro on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota also on GoPro Korea's social on a familiarization tour with media channels, such as Faceleisure and travel digital influbook and Instagram. All of the participating influencers The eight digital influencexpressed great satisfaction ers visited on June 28-July 3, with the itinerary and said they 2017, to capture high quality would like to visit the Marivideos and photographs of the anas again with their family,

Marianas' natural beauty, aufriends and significant others." thentic culture, and dynamic The tour was categorized leisure activities using the ininto three themes—leisure acternationally renowned camtivities, nature and culture, and food. For leisure activities, the eras from GoPro. participating influencers visit-"During their visit, the ined Grotto on Saipan to experifluencers uploaded numerous superior videos and photoence both snorkeling and free graphs of the Marianas on diving and went cliff diving at their social media channels," Taga Beach on Tinian. In adsaid MVA managing director dition, they experienced troll-

Christopher A. Concepcion.

"It has drawn enormous atten-

tion from the young genera-

tion, especially those who are

interested in travel, leisure and

cameras. More photographs

beautiful sunset. For the nature category, influencers took a short off-road driving trip to explore important sightseeing and cultural

ing on Rota while enjoying the





Taga Beach on Tinian is captured by a GoPro on June 30, 2017, during a tour by digital influencers organized by the Marianas Visitors Authority.

attractions in the Marianas, including Bird Island Lookout, Korean Peace Memorial, and Last Command Post on Saipan; Blow Hole and Broadway on Tinian; and As Matmos and Swimming Hole on Rota.

In addition, influencers visited various restaurants with different cuisines; including the Garapan Street Market to experience the authentic Chamorro food, where "apigigi" (roasted sweet coconut) was a favorite. The GoPro influencers were also hosted for dinner by Imperial Pacific Resort at its Noodle Bar and took a tour of the new casino.

The group lodged at Aqua Resort Club Saipan and Rota Resort & Country Club during their visit. (MVA)



GoPro digital influencers arrive on Rota on July 1, 2017, during their tour organized by the Marianas Visitors Authority.

The Marianas Visitors Authority has begun distributing vouchers for the 2017 Saipan-da backpacks to visiting children as part of its "Happy Children in Paradise" campaign. This is the 18th year the backpacks have been produced.

MVΔ

Child-tourists to be given Saipan-da backpacks

One of the Marianas Visitors Authority's longest standing promotional campaigns has returned to put smiles on the faces of visiting children.

On July 1, 2017, the "Happy Children in Paradise" began providing Saipan-da backpacks to all visiting children ages 12 and younger as a souvenir of their visit to the Marianas during the summer months. The MVA expects to give away approximately 16,000 of the 18th anniversary backpacks to happy kids this summer. The program also runs during Christmas time.

"Kids of all ages love the Saipanda character backpacks, and some collectors even make a special trip to the Marianas just to get one for their collection. Happy children usually means happy parents—parents who have a good image of the Marianas and are likely to return," said MVA marketing manager Bruce Bateman.

The summer campaign will run through Sept. 30, 2017. Fifteen participating hotels will distribute coupons to qualified guests during the period. The coupons will be redeemable at the T-Galleria Saipan-da Corner, where a live action Saipan-da will greet guests and be available for picture taking.

Originated in 2000 as a promotional tool for the then predominant Japanese market, Saipan-da is now embraced by children of many countries visiting the Marianas. (MVA)





Rota awarded \$50,000 to study feasibility of a slaughterhouse

The U.S. Department of Agriculture awarded \$50,000 to Rota through its Rural Business Development Grant Program for the production of a feasibility study on the development of a slaughterhouse on the island.

Joseph M. Diego, USDA Rural Development Area director for the Western Pacific, said this grant demonstrates USDA's continued commitment to investing in small towns and rural communities.

"This grant will explore opportunities to spur entrepreneurship, create jobs and improve the quality of life on Rota and, more importantly, it is an investment in support of a local and regional food supply chain for the CNMI," Diego said.

According to Rota Mayor Efraim M. Atalig, the study would benefit the municipality by identifying opportunities and determining the island's current capacity to meet market demands.

"We now have the opportunity to look at our island's resources and capabilities to see if we can have this additional industry on island. These capacities could be in terms of the availability of qualified workforce, livestock supply, and adequate infrastructure based on the island's current resources," Atalig said.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres believes the study will allow the ranching community to engage in production planning that will advance new and existing agricultural business opportunities for the island.

"The study will specify the pros and cons. From there we as policy makers and stakeholders can assemble and rally to develop solutions that will bolster the agriculture industry for Rota and the CNMI as a whole. It has been a priority of this administration to provide more opportunities for farmers and ranchers. This grant not only paves the way for that, but it also adds another resource for the people of Rota," Torres noted.

Lt. Gov. Victor B. Hocog underscored the importance of expanding Rota's ranching opportunities.

"Agriculture has long been an economic driving force for Rota. A slaughterhouse would advance the production of livestock and eventually generate revenue for the island and jobs for the people of Rota," Hocog said.

CNMI Office of Grants Management and State Clearinghouse administrator Epiphanio E. Cabrera, Jr. said this project is a "needed resource" for Rota.

"More grant and loan opportunities will be realized through this feasibility study. It would allow for better resource allocation and potential market shifts. We plan to work with USDA to formalize the request for proposal and further narrow the scope of work to achieve maximum returns for the Rota community," Cabrera added. (PR)

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Opinion



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...

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Ap The Associated Press

North Korea missile test requires global response

he latest feat of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the launching on Tuesday of what could be an intercontinental ballistic missile capable of reaching Alaska, presents the 13th American president in a row the dilemma of what to do about North Korea.

None of the various options to be considered to address this problem is attractive. A military attack on North Korea would lead inevitably to catastrophic damage to America's long-term ally, South Korea, as well as to carnage and disruption in North Korea and potentially in the neighboring part of China.

An effort to take out Kim Jong Un, the DPRK's current "Dear Leader," would have very uncertain results. It's unlikely that Kim's death quickly would lead to North Korea's orderly transition to a modern society. Cyberaction against North Korea's missile activities may offer some promise but little certainty. Negotiation always seems to be the recommended approach to such problems, but previous talks that the United States and other neighboring countries have been able to lure the North Koreans into have not come to much.

China has long supported the erratic North Korea regime. However, America's pressing the Chinese to put the heat on the North Koreans to stifle their nuclear arms-building activities has not gained much ground. President Donald Trump, in response, has taken several recent actions against the Chinese and their leader, President Xi Jinping. The United States announced a future sale of arms, worth some \$1.48 billion, to Taiwan, which the Beijing regime considers part of China—a provocative act. The U.S. also imposed sanctions on a Chinese bank that does business with North Korea in violation of regulations forbidding such transactions.

What China does not want is U.S. dominance of the whole Korean Peninsula, which juts like a finger off mainland China. The fear of U.S. hegemony prompted China to insert tide-turning Chinese forces into the Korean War in 1950. What China and North Korea want in the short run, which the United States could give ground on in negotiations, is a reduction in the future U.S. military presence and activities in South Korea. Better for South Korea to absorb its own defense costs anyway.

Quiet talks—to include representatives of the new, more conciliatory South Korean president, Moon Jae-in—could include discussion of such measures. Emphasis could thus be shifted away from concentration on possible U.S. military action against North Korea, which disquiets the Chinese as well, to an international effort to calm spirits in the region.

North Korea is sandwiched on a peninsula between China and a vigorous, democratic, prosperous South Korea, which has hosted a token U.S. military presence since the 1950s. The American presence there, standing in the path of Korean reunification, is very much in need of serious review. It is to be hoped that Trump will require such a review, rather than falling into a strategic trap that leads to another bloody war with North Korea or, even worse, with China.

(c)2017 Pittsburgh Post-Gazette



How to get China to rein in Kim

ven when President Donald Trump has a good idea, he doesn't stick with it long enough. Like pushing China on North Korea.

Of North Korea, said candidate Trump: "We

Of North Korea, said candidate Trump: "We should put pressure on China to solve the problem." As president, he initially placed the issue front and center in the U.S.-China relationship.

But a couple of months later, Trump appears to have lost hope in Beijing. "While I greatly appreciate the efforts of President Xi & China to help with North Korea, it has not worked out. At least I know China tried," he tweeted recently.

A Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman responded that his nation had "played an important and constructive role" in promoting peace on the Korean peninsula. Exactly how the People's Republic of China helped is unclear, however. It cut back on coal purchases, but other commerce with North Korea continues. The Trump administration asked the Xi government to act against 10 firms and individuals who trade with the North, but is still waiting for action.

Proponents of "the China card" imagine Beijing cutting off trade. Having just returned from Pyongyang—the North Korean government invited me but the Cato Institute paid my expenses—I found both energy and food to be in seeming good supply. Despite reports that gasoline prices have increased, there was no visual evidence of a shortage.

An undefined diplomatic duty won't prompt China to act. The Trump administration must therefore convince Xi's government that punishing North Korea benefits China. Which means Washington must take into account Beijing's interests.

First, Chinese officials have long blamed the U.S. for adopting a threatening policy, which spurred the North to build nuclear weapons. Thus, Washington should work with South Korea and Japan to develop a package of benefits—economic assistance, security assurances, diplomatic recognition and more—to offer in return for denuclearization, and present it to Beijing, then to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Second, China fears a messy collapse if the DPRK refuses to disarm. Nightmares of millions of refugees crossing the Yalu River, factional conflict in Pyongyang, combat among competing military units spilling across the border, and loose nukes have created a strong Chinese preference for the status quo. The U.S. needs to emphasize that the present situation is also dangerous and discuss how the allies are prepared to assist with any ill consequences. A commitment to help care for refugees and accept Chinese intervention in the North, for instance, might help assuage Beijing's concerns.

Third, Beijing does not want to facilitate Korean reunification, creating a larger and stronger state allied with the U.S. and leaving American troops on the Yalu, or even farther down the peninsula. Among the issues worth discussing: respect for Chinese

By DOUG BANDOW

Los Angeles Times

Doug Bandow is a senior fellow at the Cato Institute and a former special assistant to President Reagan. He is the author of Tripwire: Korea and U.S. Foreign Policy in a Changed World and coauthor of The Korean Conundrum: America's Troubled Rela-



tions with North and South Korea. He wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.

economic interests in North Korea, withdrawal of U.S. forces after reunification, and military nonalignment of a unified Korea.

Fourth, the U.S. could offer additional positive incentives. Trade, Taiwan and territorial issues all provide areas where Washington could offer specific concessions in return for Beijing's assistance. That obviously would increase the price of any agreement, but the U.S. has to decide how far it will go to promote denuclearization.

Of course, such an approach leaves much to be desired. Even if Kim Jong Un's government accepted benefits in exchange for disarmament, human rights abuses could still continue. Or Pyongyang might refuse and survive, leaving an even more dangerous and impoverished nuclear nation. In the event of government collapse, China might resurrect the DPRK, only with more pliable rulers.

However, there are no better options. Military strikes might not destroy the North's main nuclear assets and probably would trigger a second Korean War, which would result in horrific death and destruction even for the "victors." Targeting Chinese firms would damage relations with Beijing without necessarily significantly weakening Pyongyang. People look longingly to Beijing only because enlisting China's help appears to be the best of several bad options.

If there ever were a time to secure Chinese cooperation, it is now. Trump and Xi appear to have established a positive relationship. The tragic death of Otto Warmbier after his release by Pyongyang adds urgency to efforts to address North Korea. Moreover, in Pyongyang I saw no visible signs of the warm friendship that officially exists between North Korea and China. In fact, North Korean officials said they wanted to reduce their dependence on "any one nation."

Winning Chinese assistance remains a long shot, but Trump should put his self-proclaimed negotiating skills to work. There is no alternative, other than accepting North Korea as a nuclear state, which Trump presumably does not want as his foreign policy legacy.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity;

and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

We're done! My supermarket did me wrong

his is a tough admission to make, but I'm breaking up with my supermarket. In the past, our relationship was strong, vital and mutually beneficial. We've been going steady for about 25 years and I have the loyalty card to prove it. Loyalty cards are the retail versions of a ring.

But it's not the same anymore. They've lost respect for me. I'm being taken for granted and being played for a fool. Once I had value; once I was made to feel essential and worthy both of time and attention. Now, apart from occasionally tossing me coupons spit out by an algorithm, my store no longer takes me the least bit seriously. I no longer feel welcome, even though its does now offer me a hand-sanitizing wipe as I enter the store.

Every breakup has two significant markers: There's the moment when the split begins tearing at the seams of the relationship and there's the moment when it's ripped apart entirely. The first represents the underlying cause while the second represents the occasion.

The occasion leading to the breakup surrounds bagging. I'm not a fan of bagging. When I moved back to the U.S. after living in the U.K., one of the aspects of American life that made me want to cheer was the fact that our supermarkets don't force shoppers to do their own heavy lifting. Instead, professionals packed all those bottles, cans and cartons deftly into bags for you. A good bagger was a skilled employee, knowledgeably able to place the uncrushable and heavier items at the bottom while placing more fragile purchases on top. Bags were balanced, secure and so neatly organized that

unpacking them at home was a breeze.

My ex-supermarket has been trying to wean us off baggers for about a year now. They've also been trying to wean us off of cashiers. In a manner that appears Orwellian, they keep over-staffing the self-checkout lines but understaffing the actual checkout lines. Surely this is meant to attract us to the self-check areas.

But I don't want to self-check any more than I want to self-bag. If I wanted to do it all myself, I'd grow my own food in my own yard, raise chickens and tether a goat to a post. In other words, I'd move back to Sicily, circa 1913. This is not what I want to do.

While growing food in my backyard might sound like an attractive idea, I can't see myself growing other products. I don't see harvesting acres of toilet paper, for example, just as I don't envision manufacturing my own floor wax or planting fields of kitty litter.

The other alternative is to order my food online and have it delivered by drones. I don't want to do that either. I want to be able to touch the avocado and rap my knuckles against the cantaloupe. I even enjoy talking to people while I shop.

Perhaps it came as a surprise when I asked a store manager if he could find somebody to help me bag my purchases. He rolled his eyes. This is not recommended by the section of the customer service handbook called "How To Calm in Down Your 60-Year-Old Female Consumer."

Customer service used to be an essential part of the retail experience. Now it's an oxymoron. Asking for assistance is inevi-

By GINA BARRECA

The Hartford Courant

Gina Barreca is an English professor at the University of Connecticut and the author of If You Lean In, Will Men Just Look Down Your Blouse? and eight other books. She can be reached at www.ginabarreca.com.



tably regarded as a complaint: associates say "How may I help you?" with a sigh, not with a smile. What the phrase conveys is "How can I get rid of you, sir or madam, immediately?"

If I dared to call the store's national headquarters, it would be even more frustrating. I'd be trapped inside one of those automated scripts that are designed to prevent us from ever complaining again; it's an exercise in negative reinforcement. After going through the experience once, you'll never do it again.

If you're like me, you'll naturally start screaming "Agent!" into the receiver as soon as the electronic voice asks how it can assist you. I scream "Agentagentagent" until either a human being picks up or I pass out.

Bad customer service diminishes the patron, the shopper, the client, the passenger, and makes everybody's day worse.

This article, unlike my supermarket, has been recorded for quality assurance.

Be radical; be a moderate

hen did being a moderate become a radical position?

Extreme wings set the agenda for faiths and political parties. Why are both sides always yelling—and why are there only two sides of stark black and white? Why does someone have to win and another lose? Doesn't "me first" equal "you second"—and what does that say about the common good central to democratic societies and religious traditions?

We're extreming ourselves to death.

How about a word in praise of moderation? Yes, some will criticize moderates with the easy bite that they're just walking a cowardly yellow line down the middle of the road. "Take a stand, dammit!" they will say. "This is no time for half-measures. If you're not with us, you're against us."

Can't we have adult conversations with the shades of gray that mark many of our life decisions?

Most of us have experienced co-workers or relatives who go from one extreme to the other: The left-wing hippie becomes the buttoned-down conservative. The atheist becomes a believer and promptly tells longtime members of their new faith tradition what they're doing wrong. Being an extremist or acting with the convert's fire may make you a zealot or a sieve, but maintaining balance is much harder.

Let's revisit the middle ground, where we won't find weakness but strength to face the criticisms of both wings of your favorite cause. If you're being hit by both sides, many wise people have noted, you're doing something right. It's where historians worth their footnotes stand: teaching history in its fullness and not just the pieces that support your banner. (That's why historians can be very annoying.)

Speaking moderately doesn't mean being without conviction. The moderate must speak firmly to both sides. The challenge is to confront a policy or person without being confrontational. Moderates of many faiths fight extremists within their own tradition—insiders who fear their faith is being hijacked by fanatics and radicals, violent in their words or deeds, who don't speak the truth of their religious principles but get the most attention.

Extremists wash out subtlety and boil their traditions down to silly slogans. Moderates embrace the flaws and depths of theirs to find a better way.

Aristotle didn't believe that virtue was the opposite of vice but that virtue occupied the central ground between the two extremes of too much and too little. Healthy pride, for instance, walks a careful line to avoid vain arrogance or hubris (thinking too highly of yourself) and a belittling feeling of being unworthy (selling yourself short).

A century before and half a planet away, Confucius offered his stabilizing doctrine of the mean so right order might reign: balance and equilibrium that lead to fairness and justice where all do their proper duty. Ancient Latin gives us the idea of mediocritas—not a bland mediocrity but a steadying solid middle ground. The word connotes a sense of restraint or discipline to tame our cruder instincts and to make good rational choices. Moderation practiced in this way also brings with it a personal and historical sense of proportion and perspective deeply lacking in the wave

By CHRISTOPHER M. BELLITTO

The Philadelphia Inquirer

Christopher M. Bellitto is professor of history at Kean University in Union, N.J., and author of Ageless Wisdom: Lifetime Lessons from the Bible. He wrote this for the Philadelphia Inquirer.



of nonsense statements like, "Never before in history" or, "If we don't do this, here comes Armageddon."

The three monotheistic faiths agree. We hear the medieval Jewish sage Maimonides, who teaches: "The correct path lies equidistant between the two extremes. This is true for every characteristic possessed by man. Hence the sages instruct us to moderate our behavior and aim for the middle path. The object is to achieve proportion." Lest some see Islam only through the lens of Islamists—who are opposed by mainstream Muslims even if the TV cameras and headlines don't say so—we note moderation in the Quran and the hadith tradition of Muhammad's sayings. "Do good deeds properly, sincerely, and moderately," the Prophet says in one. Within Christianity, Pope Francis is a radical moderate trying to create a climate for dialogue instead of diatribe and polite conversation in place of polemics.

Moderation is still a virtue—if only we have the courage to practice it.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

There's no fishing north of Pagan

This is the second in a series of letters about the Trump administration efforts to overturn marine monuments in the Pacific, particularly the Mariana Trench Marine National Monument. In this letter I will address local fishing.

It is important to discuss the current level of fishing issue right up front. When it comes to the area under discussion, the waters surrounding Asuncion, Maug, and Uracus, we need to keep in mind that there is next to no fishing taking place in these waters. Have you ever taken a boat to Guam? Maug is more than twice as far away as Guam.

Fishing surveys done on Saipan have found that none of the local fish markets have sold fish caught north of Pagan in the last several years. And Pagan is only about midway to Maug. So we are talking about an area where very few people have ever visited, and where even fewer people have fished. The area is

simply not an area where people on Saipan are getting their protein. It is too far away and the price of gas is too high. There are many more closer fishing spots, including Farallon de Medinila, Anatahan, Zealandia Bank, and the several of the other Northern Islands south of the monument.

The real important part to remember here is that, although there is no local fishing in the monument today or in previous years, the monument proclamation allows for sustenance, recreational, and traditional indigenous fishing as long as it is "managed as a sustainable activity consistent with other applicable law and after due consideration with respect to traditional indigenous fishing."

All of the boats on Saipan that are seaworthy enough to make it the hundreds of miles to the monument are actually allowed to fish there as long as they follow the fishing rules that are there to ensure sustainability. No fishermen have been barred from fishing there since the day the monument was declared.

Since no fisherman has been harmed, why would we want to throw away the potential benefits from the monument? While there is well-deserved skepticism and frustration with the lack of progress from our federal partners, it makes no sense to throw the baby out with the bathwater because things are moving slowly.

If our governor has such a close working relationship with the Trump administration, he should be using this influence to open the federal coffers to fund a management plan, enforcement strategies, and building a visitors center, not open up the monument to commercial fishermen to compete with local fishermen.

Ignacio V. Cabrera

I Agag, Saipan

12 WEDNESDAY, JULY 12, 2017 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN



▲88° ▼78°







▼78°

▲ 88°

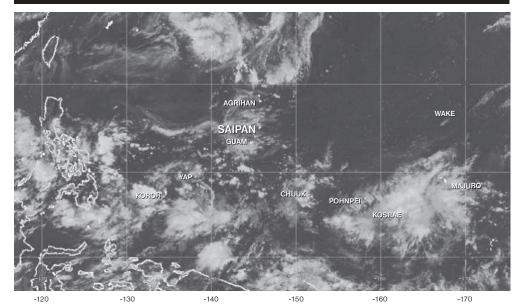


₹78°

▲ 88°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE

▲ 88° ▼78°



PICTURE TIME: 7:40 AM, TUESDAY, JULY 11, 2017

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A fairly stable pattern is in place over the Marianas this morning and looks to continue through the weekend. Upper-level divergence combined with trade-wind convergence to the west of the islands is generating a few thunderstorms to the west of the coastal waters. While the majority of this activity is expected to remain to the west, it is possible that a thunderstorm could drift into the coastal waters over the next 24 hours. The islands may also see brief periods of mostly cloudy skies through the day, however, the majority of the time, skies will remain partly cloudy. By Tuesday morning, the features responsible for the deep convection will be far enough west to no longer be a factor in the Marianas forecast.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESI	A	▲ ♥°F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	87° / 79°
Palau	Thunderstorms	84° / 76°
Yap	Thunderstorms	85° / 78°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	87° / 78°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	86° / 77°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	86° / 77°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	84° / 80°

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AROUND TH	E GLOBE	▲ ▼°F
Auckland	Windy	55° / 46°
Beijing	Thunderstorms	99° / 79°
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	88° / 81°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	86° / 76°
London	Partly Cloudy	72° / 55°
Los Angeles	Sunny	84° / 66°
Manila	Thunderstorms	90° / 79°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	55° / 46°
Miami	Mostly Sunny	87° / 80°
New York	Thunderstorms	88° / 75°
Osaka	Thunderstorms	88° / 77°
Paris	Showers	72° / 55°
Busan	Partly Cloudy	86° / 75°
Rome	Sunny	93° / 72°
Salem	Partly Cloudy	92° / 74°
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	63° / 54°
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	90° / 73°
Tokyo	Showers	84° / 75°
Washington, DC	Thunderstorms	96° / 79°



Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

■ Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone ■*11 on any IT&E cellular phone

■ Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIP	AN HARBOR TO	DAY FEET
4:01 AM	LOW TIDE	1.11
8:43 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.78
3:57 PM	LOW TIDE	-0.18
10:50 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.92

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:53 AM	6:51 PM
Thursday	5:53 AM	6:51 PM
Friday	5:54 AM	6:51 PM
Saturday	5:54 AM	6:51 PM
Sunday	5:54 AM	6:51 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	8:13 AM	9:08 PM
Thursday	-	9:04 AM	9:51 PM
Friday	-	9:56 AM	10:33 PM
Saturday	-	10:48 AM	11:16 PM
Sunday	-	11:41 AM	11:59 PM

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UA6390		3:10pm	2, 3, 6	UA6390	12:10pm		2, 3, 6 \
UA6398		6:55pm	Daily	UA6397	4:45pm		Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily	UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily
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7C3403		8:30am	Daily	TW307	8:05pm		5, 6
LJ652		8:35am	1, 4, 5, 7	0Z625		1:45am+1	1, 2, 3,
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UA6394/191	4:15am	8:55am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM	0Z702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3,
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:00am	1, 2, 4, 6via GUM	PR1571	9:20pm	3:40am+1	3, 7
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PR110/UA6395	10:55pm		Daily via GUM
UA184/6395	11:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM
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LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, ZE Eastar Jet, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. (The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

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1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily	1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily			
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily	1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily			
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TUESDAY, JULY 11, 2017 **13** SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Business

Congress returns to battles over health care, budget

(AP)— WASHINGTON Congress is still trying to send President Donald Trump his first unqualified legislative triumph, nearly six months after Republicans grabbed full control of Washington. Now, lawmakers are returning from their July 4 recess with an added objective—averting some full-blown political disasters.

The GOP campaign to Democrat Barack Obama's health care law is bogged down in the Senate and flirting with collapse. Efforts to pass a budget are stuck, there's no tax code overhaul package, spending bills are in limbo and it's unclear how leaders will find the votes to avert a federal default.

The difficulties flow from Republican divisions. Collectively, the problems are threatening to sink top GOP priorities and undermine the party's ability to show it can govern effectively.

Lawmakers have three weeks of work before an August recess. Some Republi-

email, even though she sits

3 feet from my desk. Instead

of just turning around and

speaking, "Debra" will actu-

ally email me that we need

to talk.

cans are making noise about shortening that respite, but doing so would be a step shy of sacrilege on Capitol Hill.

HEALTH CARE NAIL-BITER II

It took the House several tries to pass its bill aiming to annul much of Obama's health care law. Now, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell is struggling to find GOP votes for a similar package replacing that 2010 statute with one easing insurance coverage requirements, cutting Medicaid, erasing penalties on people not buying insurance and repealing tax increases on the well-off.

McConnell, R-Ky., unexpectedly called off a pre-recess vote on the measure-which he'd written privately—as it became clear it would lose. With Democrats arrayed unanimously against him, McConnell needs at least 50 of the 52 GOP senators to vote yes or witness the mortifying crumpling of his party's high-decibel pledge to

Stressed-out worker needs new mindset to land new job



uproot Obama's law.

McConnell has been calibrating changes that might win over worried Republicans, but there's no sign he's made progress. Two GOP senators. Bill Cassidy of Louisiana and John McCain of Arizona, issued dire forecasts on Sunday, saying the initial bill is probably "dead."

Revisions under consideration would lessen the bill's Medicaid cuts, boost spending for programs combatting drug abuse, fatten health care subsidies for low earners and make it easier for insurers to sell skimpier, lower-cost policies.

A vote is expected no earlier than the week of July 16. Mc-Connell has said if the measure flops, he'd push a narrower bill propping up ailing health insurance marketplaces.

A BUDGET MORASS

Republicans are stuck on a fiscal blueprint for the coming budget year, with disputes between conservatives and moderates over how deeply to cut programs like food stamps. None of the 12 annual spending bills financing federal

agencies is finished. Disagreements have slowed work on a tax overhaul. And no one knows what bargains will be needed to assure autumn passage of a bill extending government borrowing authority and avoiding a crushing federal default.

House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis., told reporters Friday that he'd "prefer" to pass the budget in July, suggesting it might linger until fall, adding to Congress' late-year mountain of work.

Some conservatives in Congress, meanwhile, want to include measures to cut spending as part of any extension of the government's borrowing authority.

But Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin reiterated Sunday on ABC's "This Week" that the administration prefers a straightforward extension, without including contentious agreements on spending cuts.

TAX REFORM

Mnuchin also knocked down a report last week that Trump administration adviser Steve Bannon has floated a tax increase on the wealthiest households as a way to pay

for tax cuts for middle-income Americans.

"I've never heard Steve mention that," Mnuchin said on "This Week." He added that the increase is not part of the administration's tax plan.

Bannon's proposal to raise the tax rate for Americans earning nearly \$420,000 to 40 percent or higher was reported July 2 by the website Axios.

The administration is aiming to release its full tax plan by September, Mnuchin said, and hopes to pass it into law by the end of the year. So far, the administration has issued a one-page summary of broad principles for tax reform, but few details.

The GOP congressional leadership and the Trump administration have struggled with the issue of how to offset the cost of tax cuts. Mnuchin said the administration's plan would pay for itself, if about \$2 trillion in increased revenue resulting from faster economic growth is included.

Yet congressional budget scorekeepers may not agree that tax cuts would produce such growth.

Under congressional budget rules, tax cuts can be passed by the Senate with a simple majority, but only if they don't increase the deficit after 10 years. That would allow Republicans, who have 52 Senate seats, to pass the bill without any Democratic votes.

BILLIONS MORE FOR MILITARY

Defense hawks scoffed at Trump's proposed 2018 military budget as insufficient. They're adding billions more.

The House is slated to vote this week on a sweeping policy bill that takes issue with Trump's proposed trim to missile defense spending as North Korea pushes its development of weapons capable of striking the United States.

The defense bill would

In this Feb. 27, 2017 file photo, House Speaker Paul Ryan of Wis., and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell of Ky.

provide \$696 billion for the Pentagon. It has \$28.5 billion more for core Pentagon operations than Trump requested, including an additional \$2.5 billion for programs aimed at shielding the homeland from missiles. There's extra money for new jet fighters, ships and additional active duty troops.

Less certain is how quickly Republicans move on legislation passed by the Senate that would hit Russia and Iran with new sanctions. Democrats are pressing for fast action, but the measure was not on the House schedule for the week. The legislation easily cleared the Senate in June.

FBI NOMINEE

Christopher Wray gets his turn in the spotlight as a Senate panel holds a confirmation hearing on Trump's choice to replace ousted FBI Director James Comey.

Wray, a white-collar defense lawyer with a strong law enforcement background. was a high-ranking official in George W. Bush's Justice Department. He later represented New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie in the Bridgegate scandal.

Trump fired Comey in May as the FBI investigation into Russian meddling in the presidential election pressed on. Members of the Judiciary Committee are certain to press Wray on how independent he would be from Trump.

NEW ENERGY

Two women—one Republican, one Democrat—have worked closely on energy issues.

Now, Alaska Sen. Lisa Murkowski and Washington Sen. Maria Cantwell have a bill to speed federal approval of projects to export liquefied natural gas and boost other energy sources and efficiency measures. The legislation also sets up a land and water conservation fund.

The proposal resembles one the pair pushed through the Senate last year. Murkowski chairs the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, while Cantwell is the committee's top Democrat.

The bill failed last year over a dispute with the House, which adopted its own measure focused on oil drilling and rolling back federal protections for the gray wolf and other threatened wildlife.

Murkowski would like the House to vote on the bill before August.

Q: After starting my new job, I realized that I'd made a se-YOUR OFFICE COACH

rious mistake. My manager By MARIE G. MCINTYRE argues about everything and only communicates through

Marie G. McIntyre is a workplace coach and the author of Secrets to Winning at Office Politics. Send in questions and get free coaching tips at http://www.vourofficecoach.com, or follow her on Twitter @



Debra lies to management about project delays, blaming employees for her mistakes. She has thrown me under the bus so many times that I'm surprised I'm still standing. Her boss has completely checked out and spends most of his time on his private consulting business. He specifically told us not to bother him with our problems.

Although I'm looking for another job, I haven't found one yet. I can't bring my best self to the interviews because this place just keeps me too exhausted and worried. So what do I do now?

A: Your description makes this sound like an impossible dilemma. Your manager is incompetent, her boss doesn't give a care and you're too distraught to be an effective applicant. If the stress from this job prevents you from finding a new one, you will obviously be stuck forever.

Therefore, the initial step toward a solution is to change your view of this situation. By getting appointments McClatchy-Tribune News Service

officecoach.

with potential employers, you have actually succeeded with the first half of the job search process. Now you just need to learn how to ace the interviews.

Instead of blaming interview failures on workplace stress, begin "bringing your best self" by studying effective interview techniques. Present a professional image, show enthusiasm for the position, be ready to answer common questions. And never, ever complain to an interviewer about your current employer

Q: One of my co-workers is not pleasant to be around. "Laura" regularly coughing fits that cause her to hack up a lot of phlegm. Because six of us work in one big cubicle, we hear her coughing attacks throughout the day. Our manager says he can't do anything because it's probably a medical condition.

Recently, during a group lunch, Laura had a particularly bad episode. She never apologized but just cleaned up the mess with napkins. She left them sitting in a pile on the table while the rest of us tried to eat. Although everyone was completely grossed out, no one said anything to her. What can we do about this situation?

A: You certainly win the prize for most disgusting question of the year. Regarding the restaurant incident, ignoring one embarrassing episode was kind. But if Laura repeats this behavior, someone should politely ask her to excuse herself whenever she feels an attack is imminent. Should she fail to comply, it might be time to stop inviting her to lunch.

As for your boss, he definitely has some options. He could justifiably ask Laura to head for the restroom when she feels a hacking fit coming on. Or if the coughing is continual, he might move her to a less-crowded area. Claiming to be powerless may simply be his way of avoiding an uncomfortable conversation.

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Nation

Trump: US must work with Russia, move past election issues

WASHINGTON President Donald Trump said Sunday that "it is time to move forward in working constructively with Russia" after his lengthy meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Germany. But he is still avoiding the question of whether he accepts Putin's denial that Russia was responsible for meddling in the 2016 election.

Speaking in a series of tweets the morning after returning from a world leaders' summit in Germany, Trump said he "strongly pressed" Putin twice over Russian meddling during their meeting Friday.

Trump said that Putin "vehemently denied" the conclusions of American intelligence agencies that Russian hackers and propagandists tried to sway the election in Trump's favor. But Trump would not say whether he believed Putin, tweeting only that he's "already given my opinion."

Trump has said he thinks Russia probably hacked the emails of the Democratic National Committee and Hillary Clinton staffers, but that "other people and/or countries" were likely involved as well. He said ahead of the meeting that, "Nobody knows for sure."

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov first told reporters in Germany on Friday that Trump had accepted Pu-



tin's assurances that Russia hadn't meddled—an assertion Putin repeated Saturday after the Group of 20 summit. Putin said he left the meeting thinking that Trump had believed his in-person denials.

"He asked questions, I replied. It seemed to me that he was satisfied with the answers," Putin said.

Secretary of State Rex Tillerson did not answer directly when asked Sunday if Trump

had accepted Putin's denial, but told reporters in Ukraine that Trump's conversation with Putin on election interference went "about the way we expected." Tillerson was the only other American official in the room.

Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin also declined to say whether Trump accepted Putin's denial. "Why would President Trump broadcast exactly what he said in the meeting? Strategically that makes no sense," Mnuchin said. "He's made it very clear how he feels. He's made it very clear that he addressed it straight on."

But White House chief of staff Reince Priebus took issue with Putin's characterization.

"The president absolutely didn't believe the denial of President Putin," Priebus said. He said Trump had spent a

know if we will ever come to an agreement, obviously "large part of the meeting on with our Russian counterparts on that. I think the important thing is how do we assure that this doesn't happen again,"

Germany.

Tillerson said.

Tillerson said that, "In all candidness, we did not expect an answer other than the one we received" from Russia.

In this photo provided by Ger-

man government U.S. Presi-

dent Donald Trump, left, shakes

hand with Russian President

Vladimir Putin before the first

working session of the G-20

summit in Hamburg, northern

"Everybody knows that Russia meddled in our elections," added Nikki Haley, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations. "This is Russia trying to save face."

But in a show of U.S.-Russian cooperation, officials announced during the trip that the two sides had brokered a cease-fire in southern Syria that went into effect Sunday. Trump tweeted that the deal "will save lives."

The two sides also agreed to create what Trump described in a tweet as "an impenetrable Cyber Security unit" to ensure that "election hacking, & many other negative things, will be guarded."

However, the idea drew widespread ridicule Trump sent out another tweet Sunday night in which he seemed to back off: "The fact that President Putin and I discussed a Cyber Security unit doesn't mean I think it can happen. It can't-but a ceasefire can,& did!"

Thousands flee wildfires in California; Canada blazes grow

OROVILLE, Calif. (AP)— Wildfires barreled across the baking landscape of the western U.S. and Canada, destroying homes and forcing thousands of residents to flee.

Here's a look at the wildfires blackening the West.

CALIFORNIA

Two major wildfires in California have forced nearly 8.000 people out of their homes.

About 4,000 people evacuated and another 7,400 were told to prepare to leave their homes as fire swept through grassy foothills in the Sierra Nevada, about 60 miles north of Sacramento, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection said Sunday.

The fire has burned nearly 4 square miles (11 sq. kilometers), injured four firefighters and destroyed at least 10 structures, but that number is expected to rise, fire spokeswoman Mary Ann Aldrich said.

The area burning was southeast of Oroville, where spillways in the nation's tallest dam began crumbling from heavy rains this winter and led to temporary evacuation orders for 200,000 residents downstream.

"It leaves you feeling like you can't catch a break," said Sharon Reitan, who sought shelter at an evacuation center with her boyfriend Sunday night.

They were in Oroville on Friday afternoon when the fire broke out and roads to their hillside home were blocked. They later saw photographs of their home burned to the ground.

"The road that we live on was hit hard," Reitan said. "We're in shut down mode right now, it's so devastating."

The fire was 20 percent contained. It was one of 14 wildfires across California that about 5,000 firefighters battled

In Southern California, at least 3,500 people evacuated as two fires exploded in size at separate ends of Santa Barbara County and a third one threatened homes near a town in San Luis Obispo County.

One of the fires grew to 12 square miles (31 square kilometers), traversing a mountain range and heading south toward coastal Goleta.

There was minimal containment, and flames shut down State Route 154, which is expected to remain closed for days. At least 20 structures burned, but officials didn't say if they were homes.

The fire broke out near a campsite and sent hundreds of campers scrambling, including about 90 children and 50 staff members at the Circle V Ranch who had to take shelter until they could be safely evacuated.

Amayah Madere told KCBS-TV she was in the pool when a counselor told the children to get out and change in a hurry. She said they waited in a dining hall while firefighters fought the fire and the counselors sprayed down the area with water.

"I prayed that if I didn't die I would go to church, and right when I prayed the firefighters came." Madere said.

Crews were also using an air attack against another blaze about 50 miles north that exploded in size to 37.5 square miles (97 square kilometers). About 200 rural homes east of Santa Maria were evacuated after the fire broke out Saturday and was fed by dry gusts.

Some of the firefighters working to contain that blaze were sent to nearby San Luis Obispo County when a fire broke out Sunday and threatened numerous structures near the town of Santa Margarita. Officials said the fire burned 340 acres.

ELSEWHERE IN THE WEST

Firefighters have been able to build containment lines around about half the wildfire that forced the evacuation of hundreds of people near Breckenridge, Colorado. The fire has not spread since it broke out Wednesday and was still less than a square mile (about one-third square kilometer) Sunday.

In rural Arizona, fire officials say three homes were among 10 buildings that were burned. The wildfire there has led to the evacuation of the entire town of Dudleyville, about 100 miles (160 kilometers) southeast of Phoenix.

A wildfire burning in near Summer Lake in south-central Oregon has destroyed a hunting cabin and an outbuilding.

In Nevada, fire officials have ordered evacuations for a wildfire that is near the same area where another blaze has already burned for days.

ACROSS THE NATION

the subject," but wanted to

He and other administration

officials said Trump did not

want Russian interference in

last year's election to prevent

him from working with Pu-

tin's government on other is-

sues, including the civil war

"You know, the past, I don't

in Syria.

move onto other subjects.

Teen bit in head by bear wakes up to 'crunching sound'

WARD, Colo. (AP)—A teen staffer at a Colorado camp fought off a bear after waking up Sunday to find the animal biting his head and trying to drag him away. The 19-year-old woke up at around 4 a.m. to a "crunching sound" with his head inside the mouth of the bear, which was trying to pull him out of his sleeping bag as he slept outside at Glacier View Ranch 48 miles (77 kilometers) northwest of Denver, Colorado Parks and Wildlife spokeswoman Jennifer Churchill said. The teen punched and hit it and other staffers who were sleeping nearby yelled and swatted at the bear, which eventually left, she said. The staffer, identified only as Dylan, was treated briefly at a hospital and released. The teen told KMGH-TV that the bear dragged him ten to 12 feet before he was able to free himself.

1 killed, 8 wounded at pregnant woman's gender reveal party

CINCINNATI (AP)—Two gunmen opened fire at a woman's gender reveal party near Cincinnati, wounding the expectant mother, who said she lost the baby. Colerain Township Police Chief Mark Denney said 22-yearold Autum Garrett, of Huntington, Indiana, was killed, and eight people including the pregnant woman and three young children, ages 8, 6 and 2, were injured in the shooting Saturday night. The pregnant woman later told WXIX-TV that she lost her child, a boy, after being shot in the leg. Denney said friends and family gathered for a party to learn the gender of the pregnant woman's unborn child when the gunmen opened fire with handguns in the living room of the home.

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Asia

Foreign doctors deem ill Chinese Nobel laureate OK to travel

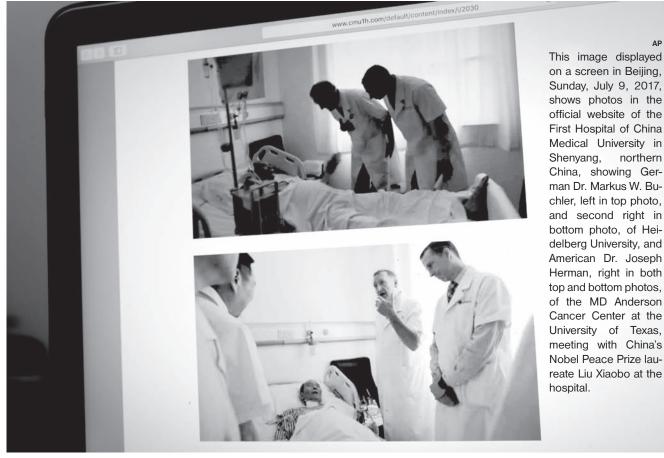
BEIJING (AP)—Two foreign specialists who visited Liu Xiaobo said Sunday that the cancer-stricken Nobel Peace Prize laureate can safely travel abroad for treatment, apparently contradicting statements by Chinese experts who say a medical evacuation would be unsafe for China's best-known political prisoner.

The American and German doctors, who saw Liu on Saturday, issued a joint statement saying that their home institutions - the University of Heidelberg and the MD Anderson Cancer Center in Texas - have agreed to accept Liu, but that any evacuation would have to take place "as quickly as possible."

Liu was diagnosed in May with late-stage liver cancer while serving an 11-year sentence for inciting subversion by advocating sweeping political reforms that would end China's one-party rule. He was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2010, the year after he was convicted and jailed by a Chinese court.

The differing opinions about the feasibility of Liu traveling could further complicate the tug-of-war over the 61-year-old activist. For weeks, family and supporters have asked for Liu to be fully released and allowed to receive treatment abroad, arguing that authorities are keeping him in China only out of political considerations.

Meanwhile, the Chinese government has maintained that Liu is receiving the best treatment possible at the First Hospital of China Medical



University in the northern city of Shenyang. Chinese state media have labeled Liu a convicted criminal, and the government has warned other countries to stay out of China's internal affairs.

Following international criticism, China allowed the two foreign experts, Dr. Markus W. Buchler of Heidelberg University and Dr. Joseph Herman of the MD Anderson Cancer Center at the University of Texas, to visit Liu.

Buchler and Herman said in their statement Sunday that they "acknowledged"

the quality of care Liu has received in Shenyang. But they said that Liu expressed a desire to leave China, and that they judged that he "can be safely transported with appropriate medical evacuation care and support."

Hours after the foreign doctors announced their opinion, Jared Genser, a Washingtonbased lawyer who represents Liu internationally, said that any decision by Chinese authorities to still keep Liu would amount to "intentionally hastening his death" and "refusing to honor the wishes

of a dying man to receive the treatment he desires."

"The moment that Liu Xiaobo and (wife) Liu Xia were to be allowed by the Chinese government to travel, we have a medevac ready to take them abroad," Genser said in an email.

Already criticized for letting an imprisoned Nobel laureate fall terminally ill on its watch, the Chinese government faces a public relations disaster whether Liu stays in the country or goes abroad.

Hu Jia, a Chinese dissident

senior Vatican cleric to ever be

charged in the Roman Catho-

lic Church sex abuse scandal

returned to Australia on Mon-

day to stand trial in his home

state on charges alleging he

sexually assaulted multiple

Cardinal George Pell, Pope

Francis' top financial adviser,

avoided waiting media when

he arrived at Sydney Airport

on a flight from Singapore.

He had declined to comment

in Singapore over the week-

end as he made his way home

due to appear in a court in the

Victoria state capital Mel-

bourne on July 26 on what

Victoria Police described as

multiple counts of "historical

sexual assault offenses"-

meaning crimes that general-

ly occurred years ago. There

is no statute of limitations

on such crimes in Australia.

Police said there were mul-

tiple complainants, but have

The 76-year-old cleric is

people years ago.

from Rome.

and family friend, said that Beijing is afraid of letting its most potent opposition symbol go abroad as long as he is able to speak to the media.

"As long as he can still talk, the global media will report and transmit his message to the world," Hu said. "Every sound he utters will be recorded as a force for changing China."

Shang Baojun, a former lawyer for Liu who remains close to the family, told The Associated Press on Saturday that Liu was coherent enough during the visit with the foreign doctors to say that he wanted to go abroad for treatment, preferably to Germany, although the U.S. would also be fine. At times, Liu was lucid enough to communicate in English, Shang said.

The hospital itself released a brief online statement late Saturday that quoted an unnamed Chinese expert as saying it would be unsafe for Liu to travel abroad. The hospital has previously said that Liu's liver function is deteriorating, and that blood clots are forming in his left leg and could potentially travel to the brain or the lungs, leading to death.

Phone calls to the hospital's administration department and publicity office rang unanswered Sunday.

The U.S. urged China to allow Liu to travel.

"We continue to call on the Chinese authorities to grant Mr. Liu full parole and to release his wife, Liu Xia, from house arrest, and to allow them to travel to seek specialized care that would ease his suffering in his final days," said Mary Beth Polley, the spokeswoman for the U.S. Embassy in Beijing.

Hu agreed that Liu was almost certain to die soon regardless of where he was.

"Letting him fly away from his hell would be a massive psychological boost, stronger than any medicine you can give him," Hu said. "It will improve his final days, so he will die with dignity—and in the free world."

ASIAN BRIEFS

North Korea calls US practice bombing run a provocation

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korean state media have sharply criticized a recent practice bombing run by two U.S. B-1B bombers on the Korean peninsula, calling it a dangerous move raising the risk of nuclear war. A commentary Sunday in the ruling party's Rodong Sinmun newspaper accused the U.S. of "reckless military provocations" and said the danger of nuclear war is reaching an extreme pitch. The commentary was reported on in English by the state Korean Central News Agency. Two U.S. Air Force bombers released inert weapons Friday on a training range in South Korea. South Korean F-15 and U.S. F-16 fighter jets joined them in the drill. The bombers also flew with Japanese F-2 fighter jets over the East China Sea on their way back to Andersen Air Force Base in Guam.

Strong aftershock follows damaging quake in mid-Philippines

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The strongest aftershock yet has shaken the central Philippines following last week's 6.5-magnitude earthquake that damaged a power plant and other buildings. No damage or casualties were immediately reported after the 5.4-magnitude earthquake Monday morning. Renato Solidum,

head of the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology, said the quake was strongly felt in and around Ormoc City and may trigger landslides or cause more damage to already damaged structures. He says it is the strongest aftershock of the 6.5-magnitude quake on July 7. The earlier earthquake left two dead and four people missing. It damaged a geothermal power plant, triggered landslides and collapsed a building with a grocery store and other shops.

Vietnam seizes 3 tons of ivory smuggled from South Africa

HANOI, Vietnam (AP)—Police in northern Vietnam have seized nearly 3 tons of ivory smuggled from South Africa in the latest action taken against the illegal trade. Thanh Hoa provincial police said the ivory was found in boxes on a truck stopped by police early Saturday morning. The account posted on the police website quoted the truck driver as saying he was hired to transport the ivory from southern Dong Nai province to the capital Hanoi. Police declined to give further information on Monday. Last year, nearly 7 tons of ivory were seized in Vietnam's southern commercial hub of Ho Chi Minh city. Vietnam is one of the world's major transit points and consumers of ivory and rhino horn. It bans hunting of its own

Cardinal returns to Australia to face sexual assault charges SYDNEY (AP)—The most released no other details.

> Pell is free ahead of his court hearing, during which he can formally apply for bail.

When police announced the charges last month, Pell vowed to fight the allegations, saying: "The whole idea of sexual abuse is abhorrent to me."

On Monday, the Sydney archdiocese said the cardinal had made multiple stops on his journey to Australia to avoid long-haul flights, based on the advice of his doctors Last year, Pell said he was too ill to make the long flight back to his home country to testify before a government inquiry into how the Catholic Church and other institutions have responded to child sex abuse allegations.

"When he was told of the charges by Victoria Police, Cardinal Pell said in Rome he totally rejected the allegations, was completely innocent of the charges and would return to Australia to vigorously de-

fend himself and clear his name," the archdiocese said in a statement. "Cardinal Pell will not be making further comment other than to say he is grateful for the numerous messages of support he continues to receive."

Pell has taken a leave of absence to fight the charges in Australia and has said he intends to return to the Vatican to continue his work as a prefect of the church's economy ministry.

The pope thanked Pell for his "honest" work and collaboration, and said he would wait for Australian justice to run its course before making a judgment himself.

For years, Pell has faced allegations that he mishandled cases of clergy abuse as archbishop of Melbourne and, later, Sydney. But more recently, Pell himself became the focus of a clergy sex abuse investigation, with Victoria detectives flying to the Vatican to interview him last year.

dwindling population of elephants.

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World

In Mexico, massacre of family underlines surging violence

COATZACOALCOS, Mexico (AP)—The bullet-riddled bodies of the Martinez children were found on a bloody floor, huddled next to the corpses of their parents in a rented shack.

The family of six was massacred, authorities believe, because the Zetas cartel suspected the father, an unemployed taxi driver, had played some part in a rival gang's attack that killed a Zeta gunman.

The response underlines the no-holds-barred tactics of drug gangs that are splintering and battling one another for control in much of Mexico, which recently recorded its highest monthly murder total in at least 20 years.

Despite President Enrique Pena Nieto's promises of a safer nation when he came to office five years ago, the violence is outpacing even the darkest days of the drug war launched by his predecessor.

"It has taken on the proportions of a ring of hell that would be described in Dante's 'Inferno,'" said Mike Vigil, former chief of international operations for the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration and author of the book "Deal."

"Their strategy was strictly going after the kingpin. ... That was pretty much not the way to go because, you know, you cut off a head and others take its place," Vigil added. "You have weak institutions, weak rule of law, weak judiciary, massive corruption, particularly within the state and municipal police forces, and all of that contributes to the escalating violence."

In the first five months of 2017, there were 9,916



In this July 1, 2017 photo, Isabel Osorio Luna, the great-grandmother of the murdered Martinez children walks past homemade concrete crosses being painted to adorn the simple tombs of the family of six, in Coatzacoalcos, Veracruz State, Mexico.

killings nationwide—an increase of about 30 percent over the 7,638 slain during the same period last year. In 2011, the bloodiest year of the drug war, the figure for the same January-May period was 9,466.

In some places the bloodshed has accompanied the rise of the upstart Jalisco New Generation cartel and the breakup of the once-dominant Sinaloa cartel into warring factions following the arrest of drug lord Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman, who was extradited to the United States in January.

turf battles pitting Guzman's Nahomi, 5.

son, brother and former allies against each other late last month in the western state of Sinaloa, according to investigators.

In the northern border state of Chihuahua, shootouts last week between Sinaloa gunmen and the gang known as La Linea killed at least 14.

In the Gulf Coast oil city of Coatzacoalcos, Veracruz Gov. Miguel Angel Yunes said the slaying of a top gunman in late June prompted the Zetas to kill the entire Martinez family: Clemente; his wife Martimana; 10-year-old Jocelin; Victor Daniel, 8; Angel, 6; and

At least 19 people died in

All died in the house where they washed cars for \$1 each.

"They didn't have anything, not even furniture. They slept on the floor," grandmother Flora Martinez said, sobbing. "I don't understand why they did this, why they did this to my little ones. They were innocent, they didn't know anything."

For years it was understood that the Zetas were untouchable in this part of the state. Just ask Sonia Cruz, whose son was killed in Coatzacoalcos in July 2016 in a case that remains unsolved.

"They (police) told me that when 'la mana' (drug cartels) are involved, that's where they stop investigating," Cruz said.

But last year's election of Yunes, the first opposition candidate to win the governorship from the long-ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party, may have broken old alliances between criminals and corrupt officials.

The new governor has shown some willingness to go after the Zetas: The local cartel leader who allegedly ordered the Martinez killings, known as "Comandante H," was arrested a few days afterward.

Yunes said the man had "operated with absolute freedom in Coatzacoalcos since 2006" and accused businesspeople in the city of acting as fronts for ill-gotten properties that actually belonged to the gangster.

Raul Ojeda Banda, a local anti-crime activist, said that some were forced to go along with the scheme: "Some were pressured, threatened.'

Violence in the area has also been exacerbated by Jalisco cartel incursions and other pressures that have threatened key sources of income for the Zetas.

Part of "Comandante H's" business model involved largescale kidnapping for quick ransom, with targets ranging from locals to oil workers to Central American migrants whom gang members tortured to extort payments from relatives in the United States.

But the Zetas abducted so many locals that those who were able moved out of the city, and those who remained began blocking off their neighborhoods at night to keep kidnappers out.

An oil industry slump amid low crude prices resulted in fewer energy workers around to prey upon. And suddenly there were fewer migrants as well. Donald Trump's election discouraged some from trying to reach the U.S. and others avoided southern Veracruz for fear of being attacked.

A fraction of Mosul, Syria's Raqqa no less challenging

BEIRUT (AP)—A month into the battle to capture the Islamic State group's selfstyled capital, U.S-backed Syrian forces have encircled the militants inside Raqqa, breached their fortified defenses and inched closer to the heart of the city. Yet the battle has barely begun.

More than 2,000 militants are holed up with their families and tens of thousands of civilians in Raqqa's center, the city's most densely populated quarters.

Although a fraction the size of Iraq's Mosul, Raqqa's urban warfare may prove as grueling, and those fighting the extremists risk being dragged into side battles with other groups in Syria's complex civil war.

In Raqqa's case, the Syrian Kurdish militia that is the main U.S. ally against IS has been rattled by Turkey's mobilization on the other side of the country. Turkey is threatening to launch an offensive against a Kurdish enclave in western Syria with the help of Syrian opposition fighters. Turkish troops have mobilized near the border, and the recent Turkish shelling of Kurdish villages killed at least three civilians.

Kurdish officials warned that Turkey's moves threaten to derail the Raqqa campaign by forcing the Kurdish militia to redeploy to defend its enclave.

Syria observers also point to the lack of capabilities and training of the U.S-backed Syrian fighters, known as the Syrian Democratic Forces, compared to the Iraqi troops battling IS militants in Mosul and the surrounding Nineveh province since August.

"So (Mosul) is actually a yearlong campaign. I don't think Raqqa will take that long, but it will take time," U.S. special envoy Brett McGurk told the Dubaibased Al-Aan TV during a visit to the Raqqa front last month. He refused to specify a timeline.

Another issue is who will run Ragga once the militants are driven out. The area's Arab population is likely to oppose any control by the Kurds, who are the dominant faction of the SDF. The U.S.-led coalition has said a local council formed by the SDF will govern.

Meanwhile, the Syrian government has vowed it will rule Raqqa, and its forces nearby could try to take advantage of the shifting situation and step in.

The coalition last week estimated some 2,500 militants remain in Raqqa. Senior members and foreigners are believed to have evacuated, and most of those who remain are believed to be Syrian fighters and tactical commanders.

Egyptian, Palestinian leaders meet amid likely Gaza shakeup CAIRO (AP)—Egyptian and Dahlan would eventually re-

Palestinian leaders met in Cairo on Sunday amid signs of a rapprochement between Cairo and the Islamic militant Hamas group that could shake up Gaza's political landscape and sideline the Palestinian president.

Officials close to Mahmoud Abbas said the Palestinian leader met with President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi to seek clarifications on what appears to be an emerging power-sharing agreement between Gaza's Hamas rulers and an exiled Abbas rival, former Gaza strongman Mohammed Dahlan.

Under the deal—parts of which have been confirmed by other parties involved— Hamas would retain control over Gaza's security, while turn to Gaza and handle its foreign relations.

The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to the media.

Neither leader made any comments to the media after their meeting in Cairo. A statement by Egypt's presidential spokesman stuck to generalities. The two leaders, the statement added, discussed the latest developments in the Palestinians' bid for statehood and ways to revive the peace process.

Dahlan was a key Fatah figure behind the Fatah-Hamas street clashes that erupted after Hamas' victory in parliamentary elections in 2006, which eventually led to the violent takeover of Gaza

by the group a year later.

Dahlan and Hamas have been bitter enemies, but their interests began to align in recent months. Dahlan's desire to return from exile and one day succeed Abbas has coincided with Hamas' growing desperation as Abbas has been applying greater pressure on Gaza.

The emerging understandings between Egypt, Hamas and Dahlan could pose a serious political threat to Abbas and the prospects of Palestinian statehood in the West Bank, Gaza Strip and east Jerusalem—the lands Israel captured in the 1967 Mideast war. A Palestinian "mini state" in Gaza could undermine the official state sought by Abbas and others within the pre-1967 lines.

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SAN FRANCISCO (AP)-

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Yul Dorn and his wife raised their son and daughter in a three-bedroom home crammed with family photos, one they bought in a historically African-American neighborhood in San Francisco more than two decades ago.

Today, the couple is living in a motel after they were evicted last year, having lost a foreclosure battle. A second home they inherited is also in default.

The Dorns expect to join the growing ranks of African-Americans who do not own their homes, a rate that was nearly 30 percentage points higher than that of whites in 2016, according to a new report.

"The person who bought the house, we lost all of our memories," said Dorn, a pastor and case manager with the city health department. "He put the furniture out on the street, and it was just devastating to my family.'

The nation's homeownership rate appears to be stabilizing as people rebound from the 2007 recession that left millions unemployed and home values underwater, according to the report by Harvard University's Joint Center for Housing Studies. But it found African-Americans aren't sharing in the recovery, even as whites, Asian-Americans and Latinos slowly see gains in home-buying. The center said the disparity between whites and blacks is at its highest in 70-plus years

Experts say reasons for the lower homeownership rate range from historic underemployment and low wages to a recession-related foreclosure

struggle as US housing market recovers crisis that hit black communities particularly hard. In 2004, the pinnacle of U.S. homethree-quarters ownership, of whites and nearly half of

ing to the Harvard study. By 2016, the African-American homeowner rate had fallen to 42.2 percent and lagged 29.7 percentage points behind whites, nearly a percentage point higher than in 2015.

blacks owned homes, accord-

Now, a lack of affordable housing and stricter lending are making it harder for first-time buyers to obtain what traditionally has been considered an essential part of the American dream and a way to build wealth.

"It has always been historically and systemically harder for blacks, and we were seeing there a little bit of progress, and now we're back at square one," said Alanna McCargo, co-director of the Housing Finance Policy Center at the Urban Institute, a think-tank focused on inner-city issues that published a similar report.

An AP analysis of U.S. Census Bureau statistics shows some pockets of the Midwest and California had the lowest homeownership rates for African-Americans, while some areas of the South had the highest.

Low inventory adds to the problem, said Jeffrey Hicks, incoming president of the National Association of Real Estate Brokers, which was founded in 1947 to promote



In this Nov. 9, 2015, file photo, Pastor Yul Dorn poses for a portrait inside his home, where he was facing eviction due to foreclosure in San Francisco's Bayview-Hunters Point district. Dorn and his wife expect to join the growing ranks of African-Americans who do not own their homes, a rate that was nearly 30 percentage points higher than that of whites in 2016, according to a report by Harvard University's Joint Center for Housing Studies.

fair housing opportunities for minorities. The Atlanta area has only about 30,000 properties for sale through real estate agents, compared with approximately 100,000 about 13 years ago, he said.

"You had subdivisions going up everywhere in terms of newer homes," Hicks said. "We haven't seen that resurgence of new housing stock."

African-Americans snapped up homes at the peak of the housing bubble, lured by generous lending and a glut of affordable properties, housing experts say. Lenders also targeted minorities, pushing riskier subprime loans even when applicants qualified for lower-interest loans.

Graciano de La Cruz, 70, grew up in San Francisco, the child of a Filipino father and an African-American mother. In 1960s, the city condemned his mother's house for redevelopment in the historically black Fillmore neighborhood. She was given a housing voucher and became a renter, losing any equity she could have passed to her children.

He and his wife, Buena, who is Filipino-American, must now sell their own home of two decades to pay off a debt that stemmed from a "pick-a-payment" loan with World Savings Bank in August 2006.

They asked for a loan with a fixed rate, but the lender said an adjustable rate package

would meet their needs. The initial monthly payment for the pick-a-payment loan was about \$1,700.

Then her health declined, and he lost his job. In 2014, Wells Fargo, which had purchased World Savings, issued a notice of default. By then, the monthly payments had mushroomed to roughly \$3,000.

"I can't sleep," de la Cruz said. "I fear I might get a knock on the door, and the banker will come up with sheriff's agents talking about, You got to leave now."

The pick-a-payment loans drew wide government scrutiny. In 2010, Wells Fargo agreed to pay \$24 million to end an investigation by eight states, including California, into whether lenders later acquired by the bank made unsustainable mortgages without disclosing the terms.

Wells Fargo has vowed to help create more than 250,000 new African-American homeowners to address declining homeownership. But spokesman Alfredo Padilla said the bank could not find a way to help the couple.

Dorn, the 60-year-old pastor, says Chase misapplied a payment he made in 2008 and then failed to keep proper records. He made several payments on a modified trial loan, which the bank then denied.

In 2015, the home he bought for \$168,000 in 1996 was sold for \$482,000. In May, the new owner sold it for \$850,000.

Chase spokeswoman Suzanne Alexander said foreclosure is always the last option, pursued only when other avenues are exhausted.

Yet there are bright spots in the home-owning front.

The New Haven metro area in Connecticut, for example, reported an increase in black homeownership from 2010 to 2015. Georgia's Albany area, which is predominantly African-American, saw a 15 percent increase from 2005 to 2015.

In Detroit, a largely African-American city wracked by foreclosures, the mayor last vear announced a financing program to make home-buying easier. Previously, banks couldn't provide loans for more than a home's appraised value, which wasn't enough to cover needed repairs or renovations.

And in Jacksonville, Florida, 32-year-old Natasha Jones recently bought her first home, a three-bedroom listed at \$135,000. The single mother of three worked with a member of the nonprofit NeighborWorks America, which supports community development, to clear up her credit and save for a down payment on a Wells Fargo-financed loan.

"I am my mom's first child to own my home," Jones said. "Now that we're in our own place, I'm redoing the flooring the way I want to. I'm painting the kids' walls. It's ours."

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Overdrive

AUTO REVIEW:

san GT-R: Godzilla comes of age

By ROBERT DUFFER CHICAGO TRIBUNE

A white blur in the rearview mirror zigzagged up to us in the midst of Memorial Day traffic. It was a Volkswagen wagon, filled with five teenage boys baiting me to race. There was nothing but taillights up ahead. I waved, they returned a less friendly gesture and spurted stupidly ahead.

Off the next ramp with an empty country road stretching out straight as a rail, I gave in to temptation.

The Nissan GT-R is a time machine; every time I floored it, my stomach lifted in opposition to the gravity of adulthood, and a small but rapturous part of me felt like those feral idiots in the VW. Unbound, unbothered, rocketing down a road where consequence only existed in the next second.

The wagon boys and I weren't alone in our admiration.

Two teens on bikes jumped the curb into the parking lot and started with the selfies, commenting, perhaps, on the broader grille with larger air intakes, the more sculpted hood, the Tennessee plates from Nissan's North American headquarters. The reality of GT-R beyond video games.

It wasn't just young people marveling at the rare appearance of a supercar on suburban streets.

a man who had probably just come of legal driving age when the first GT-R arrived in the U.S. in 2008.

The GT-R has come of age in 2017 with its most significant update. The 565-horsepower sports coupe has a more pronounced lip and side sills to help with airflow, and the blocky rear is chunkier, more menacing. Godzilla, as it is known, is growing into its body.

Why does Godzilla in the wild elicit such reverence? It's part newness, part Nissan. The uninitiated recognize its power but doubt the Nissan badge better known for crossovers.

It starts at \$109,990 and sells only about 1,000 annually, roughly a tenth of the Porsche 911 and all its iterations. Just about anyone can identify a 911, even if they mispronounce Porsche (hint: two syllables, not one).

GT-R is rare. Young and special.

Admirers of the GT-R are, in their own minds I suspect, purer. Being in the know of a rarer sports car, and a Nissan no less, keeps poseurs and dilettantes from tainting that exclusive GT-R fan base.

Godzilla fans know that it is quick, sick quick, hitting 60 mph in 2.9 seconds, and it is fast, blazing fast, at-

taining a top speed of 191 mph, according to Car and Driver.

That quickness from the 3.8-liter twin-turbo V-6 starts taking your breath away at the 2,000 rpm range, but it keeps intensifying until hitting peak 467 pound-feet of torque between 3,300 and 5,800 rpm. Staying on the accelerator can cause fear, unfettered feral fear, every sense howling like the glorious engine noise, vibrating, screaming, swirling inside the cabin and your chest — it is awesome in every sense of the word.

The long, thin paddle shifters are mounted to the steering column, but the six-speed dual clutch automatic is quicker and smarter. It knows what you want so it is best just to steer.

While the handcrafted engine remains relatively the same since the beginning, with a signed plate by the one engineer who worked on that specific engine, the engineers keep tweaking the GT-R, so the 565 horsepower is 20 horsepower more than last year's model.

The most significant appeal of the GT-R is its versatility. Not like a hatchback versatile, more

like driver-style versatile. It is immensely accessible. The long wheelbase, low center, near perfect weight distribution from a front-mounted engine are complemented with an all-wheel-drive system that inspires confidence in less experienced drivers and tempts more experienced drivers to lose their, umm, wagon.

GT-R is called Godzilla (by me anyway) for how massively and surprisingly its power can erupt, yet for how docile and comfortably it can hold drivers on longer trips. It also comes roaring out of turns with better balance than any car we've driven.

The most significant updates for 2017 are in Godzilla's living room. We drove back-to-back trips about 150 miles each to our neighbor state to the north, and had no fatigue or cramping as in other cars of this kind. Nissan says it beefed up the noise cancellation and dampened the harshness; we didn't notice any undue road noise or backbreaking suspension stiffness. It might seem inconsequential in this context, but we averaged 23 mpg on our road trips.

There's a spaciousness in its roofline and cabin — not enough to fit anyone behind the driver in the 2+2 layout, but good enough to get two kids around town. And that trunk! At 8.8 cubic feet, it fit my daughter's hockey bag better than some hatchbacks. Two sets of clubs should be doable.

The guy at the coffee drivethru whistled and said, "Nice saddleback interior. Wow."

Technically, the rakuda tan seats with hand-stitched interior were semi-aniline leather, meaning the dye maintained the texture of the surface, as part of the \$4,000 premium interior package instead of plain-Jane Recaro racing seats.

The center dash slimmed down from 27 controls to just 11, centered by an 8-inch touch screen that is easy to use. Nissan's insistence on buttons, dials and way too many of everything has turned us off in other models, and we hope the controller dial on the carbon-fiber center console, which supplements the touch screen so you can zoom in and out of a map by just turning the dial, for instance, will

make its way in all

Nissan

There's a balance inside and out, on the track or around town, uncommon in a supercar such as this. This rare breed of car, which makes novice drivers feel confident and confident drivers push their limits, is worth the stranger selfie, the admiring nods, even perhaps an appreciative taunt from a wagon full of fools. Godzilla is that good.

NUTS & BOLTS

2017 Nissan GT-R Premium at a glance

- Vehicle type: Supercar
- Base price: \$109,990
- As tested: \$114,285 ■ EPA MPG: 16 city, 22 highway
- Engine: 3.8-liter twinturbo V-6
- Transmission: speed dual clutch auto

Parting shot: Makes novice drivers feel confident and confident drivers push their limits

The Nissan GT-R in solid red, updated for 2017, is an AWDsupercar with a 565-horsepower twin-turbo V-6 engine that is stunning on the track and comfortable on the road. Pictured at Road America in Elkhart Lake, Wis., on May 25, 2017.



under the hood: Keeping devices charged on a long trip

By BRAD BERGHOLDT TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Q: In late August, my wife and I are leaving for our annual camping trip. We're going to a remote site in the High Sierra.

She has an iPad and a **CPAP** night-time breathing machine battery pack she has to keep charged. She usually does this by plugging the devices into our Outback and running the vehicle for at least two hours a day.

Is this bad for the engine or battery? Is there a better alternative?

A: Cool stuff! I researched CPAP pow-

er supplies and found that run the engine and top-off the a buffer, could significantly also provide peace of mind they're typically rated around battery, and assuming an effi-reduce or totally eliminate for your wife at home should

90 watts. Chargers for iPads cient hook-up to your devices your needed Outback run- there ever be an extended are rated at about 25 watts. (direct battery connection for time. Assuming eight hours of power outage. Multiplying the watts of each device by the number of hours of use provides an estimate of the amount of energy your wife needs each day. Eight hours of CPAP and five hours of iPad use per day comes out to 845 watt hours.

The Outback's alternator is rated at 130 amps. Multiplying amps by volts gives us watts. At idle, the alternator produces perhaps half its rated output: 942 watts. Subtracting the energy needed to

the CPAP, lighter socket for the iPad), a little over an hour of run time should be sufficient to get the job done.

Idling the engine for an hour or two per day won't hurt the engine or battery but it's an inefficient way to convert gasoline into electricity. And that's not to mention the emissions produced.

If you'll be camping frequently enough to justify the expense, a solar panel and battery booster pack, used as well-aimed sunlight per day, a 100-watt solar panel (about 27-by-40 inches, roughly \$100) could provide close to all the watt hours needed. You'd want to add an inexpensive charge controller and connect it to the jumper pack rather than the Outback's battery. The jumper pack (look for one with an accessory socket and an honest 16 amphours capacity or greater) is also useful for its intended purpose. The combo could

Q: My oil pressure warning light flickers at random times. It doesn't seem to matter if I'm going fast or slow or through any particular driving condition. It's unnerving to say the least! I've checked the oil and changed the oil, being sure it's the right kind. Where do I go from here? This freaks me out!

-lacob D.

A: I agree this is creepy. I'm thinking the cause is an electrical fault rather than

a mechanical one, but this needs to be confirmed. Assuming proper oil level and condition, an emerging mechanical problem such as excessive bearing clearance or a worn oil pump would usually cause the light to illuminate first at idle, when the engine's warm or hot, and perhaps also at higher speed as the fault worsened. A severe fault could cause the light to be on at all times. An inexpensive mechanical oil pressure gauge can be connected to the engine with a hose sufficient in length so it can be viewed while the vehicle is driven. This will provide the truth, allowing a proper course of action to be followed.

SAIPAN TRIBUNE TUESDAY, JULY 11, 2017 19

Life & Style

'Spider-Man' slings \$117 million debut and Sony rejoices



This image released by Columbia Pictures shows Tom Holland in a scene from "Spider-Man: Home-

NEW YORK (AP)—"Spider-Man: Homecoming" swung past expectations, opening with an estimated \$117 million in North America and giving a Sony Pictures a much needed hit.

"Homecoming" was one of the biggest tests yet for the notion that domestic moviegoers are growing weary of sequels and reboots and suffering socalled "franchise fatigue." "Homecoming" kicks off the third "Spider-Man" iteration in the last 15 years, and the second reboot since 2014's "The Amazing Spider-Man," with Andrew Garfield.

But Sony has kept Spider-Man airborne. For "Homecoming," the studio returned to Spider-Man's teenage roots, casting Tom Holland in the part. Critics and audiences responded, with many calling Jon Watts' iteration one of the best Spider-Man films.

Sony also, for the first time, partnered with Kevin Feige and Marvel Studios to produce the film and rope "Homecoming" into Marvel's wider cinematic universe. Robert Downey Jr.'s Tony Stark/Iron Man appears as Spider-Man's mentor, and Michael Keaton plays the villain Vulture.

- "Spider-Man: Homecoming," \$117 million (\$140 million inter-
- "Despicable Me 3," \$34 million (\$139 million international)
- "Baby Driver," \$12.8 million (\$3.9 million international).
- 'Wonder Woman," \$10.1 mil-
- lion (\$6.8 million international). "Transformers: The Last **Knight**," \$6.3 million (\$18.1 million international).
- "Cars 3," \$5.6 million (\$3.1 mil-
- lion international). "**The House**," \$4.8 million (\$1.4
- million international).
 "The Big Sick," \$3.7 million.
- "47 Meters Down," \$2.8 mil-
- 10. "The Beguiled," \$2.1 million.

Those ingredients, along with a marketing effort that appealed to young moviegoers, pushed "Homecoming" to the best "Spider-Man" debut since 2007's "Spider-Man 3." The film, made for about \$175 million, also grossed \$140 million internationally over

the weekend.

"It's a triumphant return for Spider-Man," said Josh Greenstein, Sony Pictures' president of worldwide marketing and distribution. "It's an incredible win for Sony, for our partners at Marvel and Kevin Feige and Amy Pascal, who produced it."

"Even though there have been other Spider-Man movies, this film feels fresh and new and different and special, and I think that's what's really resonating with audiences right now," added Greenstein.

Sony has struggled in the years since the infamous cyber hack of 2014, after which Tom Rothman eventually replaced Pascal as studio chief. (Pascal has since turned to producing, including this and future "Spider-Man" installments.) Box-office disappointments like the Dan Brown adaptation "Inferno," Ang Lee's high-frame-rate gambit "Billy Lynn's Long Halftime Walk" and the cultural flashpoint "Ghostbusters" have dotted its lineup.

But now, Sony has argu-

ably the two biggest hits in the land: one a smartly recycled franchise, the other a quick and quirky original. Edgar Wright's acclaimed actionmusical "Baby Driver" slid just 38 percent in its second week, coming in third with \$12.8 million. The movie, which cost \$34 million to produce, has already earned \$56.9 million domestically.

Last week's top film, "Despicable Me 3," dropped to second with \$34 million.

As good as the news was for Sony, the weekend's results also proved a modern-day movie maxim: No one does

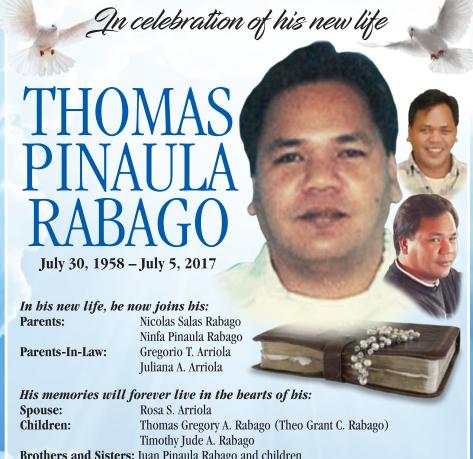
franchise-building better than Marvel. "Spider-Man" is one of three major summer hits thus far, following the Marvel-Disney sequel "Guardians of the Galaxy, Vol. 2" and the Warner Bros.-D.C. Comics release "Wonder Woman."

The latter success came only after several high-profile missteps in Warner Bros.' attempt to build a Marvel-style universe of films. Earlier this summer, Universal's plans for its "Dark Universe" of monster movies got off to a rocky start with the poorly performing "The Mummy."

Sony's smartest move on

"Spider-Man: Homecoming" might have been deciding to bring it into the Marvel fold.

"Nobody knows Marvel better than Marvel," said Paul Dergarabedian, senior media analyst for comScore. They really understand the mythology of these characters, the legacy of these characters, and Spider-Man is one of the crown jewels of the superhero world. No way was Sony ever going to give up on Spider-Man. So what do they do? They collaborate more closely with Marvel, and it paid off handsomely this weekend."



Brothers and Sisters: Juan Pinaula Rabago and children

Luisa Rabago Sablan/ †Enrique M. Sablan and children Inez Rabago Deleon Guerrero/ †Juan Q. Deleon Guerrero and

children

†Teresa Rabago Aguon/Santiago and children

†Antonio Pinaula Rabago/ Josephine S. Rabago and children Patricia Rabago Villagomez/ Manuel B. Villagomez and children

†Jose Pinaula Rabago/ Maria V. Rabago and children

Rosalia Pinaula Rabago and children

Brother & Sisters In-Law: †Joaquin S. Arriola and children

Pedro S. Arriola/ Merita J. Arriola and children †Francisco "Fal" S. Arriola/ †Bernie

Juan S. Arriola/ Sadako N. Arriola and children

He will be greatly missed by his aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, God-children, and friends.

Daily mass is being offered at 6:00 p.m. at the San Vicente Church. On Thursday, July 13, 2017 at 7:30 a.m., his remains will be escorted from the CHC chapel to San Vicente Church. Responso and Rosary will commence upon arrival followed by viewing and last respects. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:00 a.m. followed by interment services at Mount Carmel Cemetery where he will be laid to rest.

> Please join us in prayers. Thank you – Si Yu'us Ma'ase

Rosa S. Arriola, Children, and Family

Spain's running of the bulls: No gorings on Day 3

PAMPLONA, Spain (AP) two days of this year's San Fermin festival, officials in the northern Spanish city of Pamplona said Sunday's third running of the bulls was quick and resulted in only minor injuries.

The regional government of Navarra said that four men, three Spaniards and one Frenchman, needed to be treated at a nearby hospital for minor injuries caused by knocks and falls.

"It was a tranquil bull run," hospital spokesman Tomas Belzunegui said.

Spaniard were gored during the daily bull runs. None were lifethreatening injuries.

The bulls from the Puerto de San Lorenzo ranch, which debuted at the festival, completed the 930-yard (850-meter) cobbled-street course in 2 minutes, 22 seconds. That is well under the average of three minutes for the run that weaves through the city center.

A brown bull named "Huracan," or Hurricane, broke away early and sped ahead through the parting

Over the first two days of the crowds of runners, several After five gorings on the first festival, four Americans and a of whom barely dodged its swinging horns.

Huracan came close to catching a runner when it hooked a horn in the pant leg of a young man entering the bullring, lifting him along the wall before dragging him for a few meters (yards). The man apparently escaped unscathed.

The nine-day San Fermin fiesta attracts tens of thousands of partygoers from Spain and abroad. It was popularized by Nobel Literature laureate Ernest Hemingway's 1926 novel "The Sun Also Rises."

Bad behavior is trending online, inspiring it in real life

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Young children know that name-calling is wrong. Tweens are taught the perils of online bullying and revenge porn: It's unacceptable and potentially illegal.

But celebrities who engage in flagrant attacks on social media are rewarded with worldwide attention. President Donald Trump's most popular tweet to date is a video that shows him fakepummeling a personification of CNN. Reality TV star Rob Kardashian was trending last week after attacking his former fiancée on Instagram in a flurry of posts so explicit his account was shut down. He continued the attacks on Twitter, where he has more than 7.6 million followers

While public interest in bad behavior is nothing new, social media has created a vast new venue for incivility to be expressed, witnessed and shared. And experts say it's affecting social interactions in real life.

"Over time, the attitudes and behaviors that we are concerned with right now in social media will bleed out into the physical world," said Karen North, a psychologist and director of the University of Southern California's Digital Social Media Program. "We're supposed to learn to be polite and civil in society. But what we have right now is



a situation where a number of role models are acting the opposite of that ... And by watching it, we vicariously feel it, and our own attitudes and behaviors change as a result."

Catherine Steiner-Adair, a psychologist and author of "The Big Disconnect: Protecting Childhood and Family Relationships in the Digital Age," said she's already seeing the effects.

She said she's been confronted by students across the country asking why celebrities and political leaders are allowed to engage in name-calling and other activities for which they would be pun-

ished.

On some middle-school campuses, "Trumping" means to grab a girl's rear end, she said.

And teenagers have killed themselves over the kind of slut-shaming and exposure of private images Kardashian leveled at Blac Chyna, with whom he has an infant daughter.

"We are normalizing behaviors, and it's affecting some kids," Steiner-Adair said. "And what's affecting kids that is profound is their mistrust of grown-ups who are behaving so badly. Why aren't they stopping this?"

Social media satisfies a human need for connection. Users bond over common interests and establish digital relationships with their favorite public figures, following and commenting on their lives just like they do their friends'.

Gossip is a bonding activity, and it doesn't take a Real Housewife to know people love to share dirt about others' perceived misdeeds. Collective disapproval creates a feeling of community, regardless of which side you're on. Having a common enemy is "one of the strongest bonding factors in human nature,"

In this combination photo, TV personality Rob Kardashian, left, appears in New York on Nov. 23, 2011 and his former fiancee Blac Chyna appears at the BET Awards in Los Angeles on June 25, 2017. Kardashian was trending last week after attacking his former fiancée on Instagram in a flurry of posts so explicit his account was shut down.

North said.

With 352,000 retweets, Trump's CNN-pummeling post isn't in the realm of Ellen DeGeneres' Oscar selfie (3.4 million retweets). And Kardashian's rant against Chyna paled in popularity with Beyonce's Instagram pregnancy announcement, which collected 8 million likes.

Still, Trump's attack tweets have proven his most popular, according to a new study by Ohio State University Professor Jayeon "Janey" Lee.

"Attacks on the media were most effective," Lee said of her analysis of tweets posted during the presidential campaign. "Whenever Trump criticized or mocked the media, the message was more likely to be retweeted and 'favorited.'"

Trump, who has 33.4 million Twitter followers, has defended his social-media approach as "modern day presidential."

Cyber incivility, particularly when practiced by cultural leaders, can have a profound impact on human relations, North said.

Studies show that young people who witness aggressive behavior in adults model

and expand on that behavior. She pointed to Stanford University psychologist Albert Bandura's famous "Bobo Doll Experiment," which found that kids who saw adults hit a doll in frustration not only hit the doll as well, but attacked it with weapons.

Social media is an atmosphere devoid of the social cues that mitigate behavior in real life, she said. When violating social norms in person, there's immediate feedback from others through body language and tone of voice. No such indicators exist online, and retweets can feel like validation.

Cruel and humiliating posts often become "an instant hit online," Steiner-Adair said. "It's one of the best ways to become popular."

Viral posts then get mainstream media attention, spreading digital nastiness into everyday conversation.

By not expressly rejecting cruel or hateful online behavior, "we are creating a bystander culture where people think this is funny," she said.

"When we tolerate leaders—in the popular media like a Kardashian, or a president—behaving in this way, we are creating a very dangerous petri dish for massive cultural change," Steiner-Adair said.

Young people, who may be the most plugged in, are getting mixed messages as they form their moral concepts.

"It behooves us all to question why we are participating in this mob of reactivity," Steiner-Adair said, "and what are the character traits we need to model for our children."

Fire art in South Africa promotes healthy grasslands

JOHANNESBURG (AP)—The smoking image of a grasshopper was burned into the South African grassland, as alert firefighters stood by. Last month's work of performance art was born from the idea of promoting controlled burning as beneficial for South Africa's savannah ecosystems.

Artist Hannelie Coetzee said the 5-hectare (12-acre) artwork was inspired by research scientist Sally Archibald, who was looking into the importance of fire in creating productive grazing areas.

Archibald had described a controlled burn as a kind of performance, "and that really triggered it," Coetzee says. "It gave me the idea that I could take real scientists, real firefighters and weave it into an artwork that is really large-scale, speaking about very important and pressing environmental issues."

Art curator Tammy Langtry also worked on last month's performance, which included a 6-kilometer (3.7-mile) hike to the site for audience members.

"Hannelie's practice is very



In this drone image taken June 24, 2017 and supplied by artist Hannelie Coetzee, an image of a locust and grasshopper is burned into grazing grassland near Johannesburg as a work of performance art. The work was born from the idea of promoting controlled burning as beneficial for South Africa's savannah ecosystems.

unique, and the art objects and work that comes out of that is then again very unique," Langtry says.

Archibald, a scientist at Johannesburg's University of the Witwatersrand, said controlled burns clear space for new plant growth that animals find "very tasty."

"The animals put their

dung there and then they graze some more, and they create what we call a positive feedback," she says. "So the more animals you have, the nicer the environment is for the animals."

She's now looking into the impact of controlled burns on insects—and the idea for last month's grasshopper image

was born.

"In collaborating with Hannelie, who is an artist, we actually decided to actually turn that burn into an image to make it more exciting, and in so doing we actually tried to inspire people and make them interested in science," said Felix Skhosana, a postgraduate student with the project.

Polarizing right-wing writer sues over canceled book

NEW YORK (AP)—Polarizing right-wing writer Milo Yiannopoulos filed a \$10 million lawsuit against a New York publishing company on Friday over a canceled book deal.

Yiannopoulos resigned from the conservative website Breitbart News this year after comments he made about sexual relationships between boys and men. In video clips, he appeared to defend sexual relationships between men and boys as young as 13. He had planned a memoir titled "Dangerous" and had a deal with Simon & Schuster to publish it, but the company dumped the book after the comments surfaced.

Yiannopoulos' lawsuit claims the publishing company breached its contract and bowed to "false and misleading reports."

"Because of political pressure ... in the space of 24

hours they suddenly decided that the book was unfit for publication," Yiannopoulos told reporters outside Simon & Schuster's Manhattan offices. "Well that's unacceptable. They don't get to break the deal on what I believe is a false pretext because they caved to political pressure. So they have to pay."

The publisher dismissed the lawsuit as a publicity stunt. "Simon & Schuster will vigorously defend itself against any such action, and fully expects to prevail in court," the company said in a statement to the Daily News.

A vocal supporter of Republican President Donald Trump, Yiannopoulos has made vicious comments about Muslims, women and others. His harassment campaign last summer against "Ghostbusters" star Leslie Jones led to his banishment from Twitter.

Daddy Yankee is #1 on Spotify; 1st Latin artist to do so

NEW YORK (AP)—Singer Daddy Yankee ousted Ed Sheeran from the No. 1 spot on Spotify to become the first Latino artist to lead the music platform.

The Puerto Rican superstar of reggaeton has hits that include "Gasolina," "Shaky Shaky" and "Despacito," a song co-written with Luis Fonsi. He's surpassed 44,735,586 monthly listeners to reach the first global spot, Spotify an- are all in the same nounced Sunday in an email sent to The Associated Press.

"Being the first Latin artist to reach #1 in Spotify marks a precedent not only for my career but for the industry in general," Daddy Yankee, whose real name is Ramón Luis Ayala Rodríguez, said in an email. "The musical digital revolution has unified the world and this is the proof. We

boat with no labels or stereotypes."

He recalled that, when he started his career in 1992 in Puerto Rico, many didn't believe he would last more than Daddy Yankee three years, much less that he would become an

international sensation. "But I never stopped," he

I had to make big sacrifices, to miss important moments with my family, to feel the prejudice of many people that didn't open the doors for me.'

Rocio Guerrero, Spotify's head of

Latin culture, shows & editorial says: "Spotify has been supporting Latin music for

moment that shows our passion and love for the genre are equally supported by our audience. We are grateful for all of our artists, and specifically for Daddy Yankee's influence in bringing global appreciation to Latin music."

The remix to "Despacito," featuring additional vocals by Justin Bieber," is No. 1 on Spotify's global charts.

More than a decade after

album, "Barrio Fino," and the single "Gasolina" made him a global star, the Latin Grammy Award winner is still one of the most influential and recognizable names in reggaeton.

"Today, this genre is the most listened to in the world," Daddy Yankee said. "Thanks to all the fans and colleagues that gave me the opportunity to collaborate with them. We

Ed Sheeran says trolls drove him off Twitter; Lady Gaga sends her love

LOS ANGELES TIMES

Sorry, Twitter, but you won't have Ed Sheeran to kick around anymore.

At least that's what he told British tabloid the Sun on Monday, stating that he had abandoned the platform wholesale.

"I go on it, and there's nothing but people saying mean things. Twitter's a platform for that," Sheeran said. "One comment ruins your day. But that's why I've come off it."

The British pop star said some of that abuse came from the rabid fan base of Lady Gaga, whose so-called "little monsters" targeted Sheeran after a January interview they perceived as disrespectful to the "Born This Way" singer.

In response to news that Sheeran had abandoned Twitter, Lady Gaga herself took to Instagram to share a photo of the two and expressed her love for the soulful singer, imploring Internet denizens to be more positive and loving.

"No reason to tear down

an artist simply because they are on top," Gaga wrote in her message posted Tuesday. "Work harder to be kinder everybody. That should be your first duty to humanity."

Ironically, Sheeran's widespread popularity has partly made him a target for online haters.

Upon release of his new album, "÷," in March, Sheeran had 16 songs on the UK Top 20 chart. That's a feat so astounding that the Britain's Official Charts Company had to change its structure, allowing only three songs per artist on the charts in a given week.

Sheeran's "Shape of You" also has garnered 184 million streams in the U.K. since its release in January, making it the most streamed song of all time in Britain.

All is not lost for Sheeran's fans, however. The "Galway Girl" singer still retains his Twitter account, and images from his Instagram account continue to be cross-posted there.

If nothing else, perhaps Sheeran will return to Twitter to continue to educate the masses on the functionality (and existence) of loopers.

said. "I had to keep fighting. Daddy Yankee's best-selling many years, and this is the did it!" Valerian' director says Rihanna is focused, generous on set

LOS ANGELES (AP)-Director Luc Besson says getting Rihanna's team on board for her role in the sci-fi epic "Valerian and the City of a Thousand Planets" was a little painful at first.

Rihanna's manager Jay Brown was a fan of Besson's films like "The Professional" and "La Femme Nikita" but they had to make sure they trusted Besson and his crew before they committed.

The pop superstar co-stars in "Valerian," out July 21, as a burlesque dancer named Bubble who performs in a seedy club owned by Ethan Hawke. Although it's a relatively small part in the film starring Cara Delevingne and Dane DeHaan, it's already being hailed by early viewers as a scene-stealing performance.

Rihanna, who wasn't available for an interview, was the director's first choice for the pivotal role and he figured it couldn't hurt to ask. She'd had a main role in the 2012 film "Battleship" and the animated "Home," and cameos in "This Is the End" and "Annie."

He was surprised at how involved her team was at the outset.

"They're very protective of her," he said "So before



This image released by STX Entertainment shows Rihanna, who portrays a burlesque dancer named Bubble, in Luc Besson's sci-fi epic, "Valerian and the City of a Thousand Planets," in theaters on July 21.

you get in, you have to prove that you're honest and you're there for a good reason It's a little painful at the beginning, but after a while you go, 'Yeah, we get it.""

Once the Grammy winner's team decided to move forward, Besson said Rihanna "was lovely."

"What was good was when she was on the set she's 200 percent focused with you, no entourage, she's there. When she's there, she's there," Besson said.

"The problem, sometimes, is to have her there," the French director added with a smile, to which his wife and producer Virginie Besson-Silla quickly jumped in and said, "No, no, she's was good!"

"She was good," Besson agreed. "She was amazing and so focused. I was surprised by how much she was ready and open to the director ... She was at my service and I was surprised at the beginning. She was so generous.'

Woman is struck speechless when told she talks too much

EAR ABBY: My husband and I went on a trip with his brother and his wife recently. Three days into the trip, while we were having dinner at a restaurant, my sister-in-law yelled at me, "Shut up! You talk too much!" I was stunned. Then my husband said. "I agree with her." Words cannot express how surprised and hurt I felt.

I do sometimes talk a lot when I'm excited, but no one has ever said this to me, certainly not my husband. The next day I felt very angry, especially at my husband for siding with her against me in public. I asked him to please tell me when we are alone if he has a problem with something I said or did, rather than embarrass me. I feel betrayed and angry. What should I do?

ANGRY AND HURT

DEAR ANGRY AND HURT: Your feelings are justified. Your sister-in-law may have been frustrated at your verbosity, but she should not have attacked you at the dinner table. Her "helpful criticism" should have been offered privately and in gentler terms. The same is true about your husband, who should not have ganged up on you. What he did was hurtful, not helpful. Both of them owe you an apology.

DEAR ABBY: My fiancee and I had a party. A very good friend of mine came with her 4-year-old daughter, "Emma." It

grew late and my friend wanted to stay for a while, so we put Emma in our bed to sleep (the guest room was unavailable).

After going upstairs to get Emma later in the evening, my friend came downstairs with Emma and told us that the child had wet our bed. Not wanting to make Emma feel bad, we said it was no problem.

My friend did not strip the bed, offer to wash the sheets, or anything. She hasn't mentioned it since, and didn't follow up to make sure we were able to get the urine out of our bedding and the mattress. I find this to be incredibly rude and inconsiderate, but at the same time, what's done is done and there was no lasting damage. Should I say something to my friend, or let it go?

ACCIDENT IN THE BEDROOM

DEAR ACCIDENT: Let it go. You should have spoken up about your true feelings when the accident happened. In the future, consider purchasing a moisture-resistant mattress cover for your bed and the one in the guest room in case of "accidents." It may reduce the "ick" factor if you're squeamish.

DEAR ABBY: I have gone to my hairdresser, "Adrianna,"

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren. also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



for regular haircuts—nothing fancy—for about three years. However, I've heard about another shop nearby that gives haircuts for half the price, and they seem to do a good job. Would it be disloyal of me to leave my current hairdresser?

HALF THE PRICE IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR HALF THE PRICE: Adrianna would probably feel that way, but you are free to give it a try. However, I'll offer one caveat before you do: People usually get what they pay for, so don't burn any bridges.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby - Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

22 TUESDAY, JULY 11, 2017 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes



GREAT! I CAN BEAT YOU AND YOUR STUFFED TIGER ANY DAY. I'LL GO PUT ON



By Bill Waterson SUSIE'S



Garfield®





HOW ABOUT IF I THINK AND THEN JUST LIE HERE \sim 0 0 0 0

By Jim Davis

Adam@home



The Duplex

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By Glenn McCoy

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CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jacoby Jones, 33; Lil' Kim, 43; Richie Sambora, 58; Sela Ward, 61

Happy Birthday: Unexpected developments will set you off. Try to loosen up and embrace any challenge that comes your way. Be creative in the way you handle others and pursue new endeavors. Travel outside your comfort zone and see what transpires. Find new ways to improve your skills, attitude and your appearance. Keep up with the times. Your numbers are 6, 17, 24, 29, 33, 41, 45.

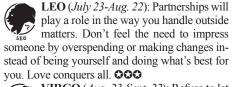
ARIES (March 21-April 19): Focus on what you can do for others. Whether it's a partner, child or parent, the help and insight you offer will encourage productive choices. Arguing will be a waste of time. Offer your solutions and move on to your own responsibilities. OOOO

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Emotions must not be allowed to interfere with domestic or vocational decisions. A reserved and well-thought-out plan will ensure that you don't end up taking a loss for something you didn't mean to do. Caution will be your best bet. 🗪

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Personal improvements should be on your to-do list. Gathering information and making physical alterations to the way you live, work and handle your relationships will bring about positive changes and greater satisfaction. Romance is encouraged. OOOOO

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Notice what's happening around you and use what you see to your advantage. Put more

energy into whatever you pursue and show greater enthusiasm when dealing with others, and you will get more in return. Choose to participate. •••



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Refuse to let anyone talk you into something by playing on your emotions. Stay focused on what you can do and put your physical strength, courage and skills to the test. Don't stop until you reach your goals. OOO

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Engage in social activities related. cial activities related to your work or getting ahead in your field. Picking up more skills, knowledge and connecting with the elite in your genre will lead to new beginnings that offer you greater opportunities to advance. **ODOO**

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Keep an open mind when dealing with domestic matters. It's important to see all sides of a situation if you want to resolve pending problems. Personal changes to the way you handle finances, medical and legal issues are encouraged. 🛇 🔾

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Put common goals in place and you will entice someone you want to spend more time with to join you. Partnerships should be your top priority. Expand your plans to include

the people you care about most. ••••

EUGENIA

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Stay away from anyone unpredictable or im-

dealing with others. AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You can stabilize your position at work and at home by contributing to whatever plans are being made. A contract, partnership or personal gain looks promising if you are realistic as well

to what you know best. Your intuition will be ac-

curate and should be your deciding factor when

pulsive. It's in your best interest to stick

as innovative. Romance is highlighted. ••• PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Question anyone who pokes their nose into your personal or professional affairs. Know where you stand and be willing to put your energy into something you want to see happen. Don't allow someone to mess with your time or your

Birthday Baby: You are energetic, original and persuasive. You are outgoing and entertaining.

Eugenia's website—eugenialast.com, Eugenia's android app @ http://bit.ly/exhoro and join Eugenia on twitter/facebook/linkedin.

36 Language

Solution time: 22 mins.

Yesterday's answer 7-11



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STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call. 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

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Difficulty Level *

7/11 ©2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist, by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

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Wonderword OUELLET

plans. OOO

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each latter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

CONCERT PRESALES Solution: 7 letter S E A B U N D L E G A K C A P TTNRAPRIVATEMSR A A A R T N E U N E V T Y G E E (E) D T O I D S N E N R N N F $SG \bigcirc VILSINEAAOIE$ A O (A) A O L T M T L I S V R TGBSNNENPTETAR DNIUOUCERPTERSE LANLONMEIAMBETD OVCCUIORDSDELEE H D C O L R C S T S R I A K C DANPDSEARNSUOCU RNMEBEGLIAMEOID AORUFEMARFEMITE CUSTOMERSDRAWER

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TEL: (670) 234-6547

ATTORNEY FOR PETITIONER

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE **COMMONWEALTH OF THE**

In the Matter of the Estate of CIVIL ACTION NO. 17-0149 DANIEL SABLAN CELIS, Deceased.

NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Norther Marianas Housing Corporation has filed a Petition for Letters of Administration upon the Estate of Daniel Sablan Celis, Deceased: and that said Petition will be heard by the Court on Thursday, July 27, 2017, at the hour of 1:30p.m.

Notice is also given to all heirs of and persons having claims against the Estate of Daniel Saban Celis, Deceased, and to all persons claiming an interest in said Estate, that they shall file such claims with the Clerk of this Court within sixty (60) days from the date of first publication of this Notice. Copies of such claims should be provided to Michael A. White, Esq., The Law offices of Michael A. White, LLC, P.O. Box 5222 CHRB, Saipan, MP 96950, Attorney for Petitioner. All claims not so filed shall be forever barred.

DATED: July 3, 2017

/s/ Clerk of Court

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PRO SE

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE **COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

In the Matter of the FCD CN CIVIL ACTION Petition for the NO. 17-0267 Change of Name of: Leilisligh Clarrise NOTICE OF) HEARING Itibus Kaipat Petitioner

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on August 10, 2017, at 10:30a.m. in Courtroom 205A, before Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo.

Dated this 13th day of June. 2017.

Patrick V. Diaz Clerk of court

/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

WHATZIT Solution: South of the border

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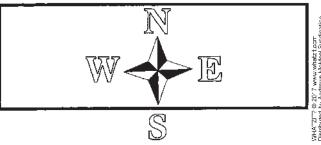
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Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.



Find today's solution in classified section



Freeland narrowly misses no-hitter as Rockies beat White Sox



DENVER
(AP)—Home-

Kyle Freeland came within two outs of the first no-hitter by a Rockies pitcher at Coors Field before surrendering a sharp single to Melky Cabrera in Colorado's 10-0 victory over the Chicago White Sox on Sunday.

Freeland, who is from Denver and grew up going to games at the hitter-friendly park, struck out the first batter of the ninth inning and then allowed Cabrera's hit to left field on a 2-2 count.

The 24-year-old Freeland (9-7) threw 126 pitches. He was pulled immediately after the hit and left to a standing ovation. The lefty struck out a career-high nine, walked three and hit a batter.

Freeland was trying to throw the second no-hitter in Coors Field history. Hideo Nomo accomplished the feat in 1996 when he was with the Los Angeles Dodgers. The only no-hitter in Rockies history was thrown by Ubaldo Jimenez in 2010 at Atlanta.

Edinson Volquez of the Miami Marlins pitched the lone no-hitter in the majors this season, doing it last month against Arizona.

Freeland even had an RBI single in the seventh for the Rockies' last run.

Reliever Jordan Lyles got the last two outs to complete the one-hitter.

Pat Valaika drove in five runs, including a three-run homer as part of a five-run sixth that turned a 2-0 lead into a rout. Charlie Blackmon also hit a solo homer.

Carlos Rodon (1-2) was the loser.

Astros 19, Blue Jays 1

In Toronto, Carlos Correa homered twice and drove in a career-high five runs and Houston romped into the All-Star break, battering Toronto.

The runaway leaders in the AL West became just the fifth team in the last 40 years to reach 60 wins before the All-Star Game. They Astros joined the 1998 Yankees, 2001 Mariners, 2003 Braves and this year's Los Angeles Dodgers, who got there Saturday. At 60-29, Houston heads into the break with a whopping lead in a division where no one else is over .500.

A day after his career-high 15-game hitting streak ended, Correa had four hits. The All-Star shortstop hit the 20-homer mark with his second of the day for his fifth career multihomer game and second this year.

Pirates 14, Cubs 3

In Chicago, Francisco Cervelli and Andrew McCutchen

capped Pittsburgh's 10-run first inning with consecutive homers off Jon Lester, helping the Pirates pound Chicago.

Cervelli drove in five runs and Jordy Mercer had two hits and three RBIs as the Pirates closed out a 5-2 road trip with their fifth win in six games. All-Star Josh Harrison homered in the ninth and Chad Kuhl pitched three innings of one-run ball in an emergency start after Jameson Taillon was scratched due to flu-like symptoms.

Pittsburgh sent 15 batters to the plate in its highest-scoring inning since it got 10 in the seventh against Colorado on May 17, 2009. It was the first time it scored at least 10 in the first inning since June 8, 1989, against Philadelphia.

Dodgers 5, Royals 2

In Los Angeles, Clayton Kershaw tossed a six-hitter to become the majors' first 14-game winner, Justin Turner homered twice, and NL West-leading Los Angeles beat defeated Kansas City to complete its major league-best 10th sweep and sixth straight victory.

The streaking Dodgers head into the All-Star break owning baseball's best record of 61-29. They've won 18 of their last 19 at home, where they lead the majors with a 39-11 mark.

Kershaw (14-2) allowed two runs and six hits on 99 pitches, struck out 13 and walked none to set the Dodgers' record for most wins at the break.

Brewers 5, Yankees 3

In New York, Travis Shaw and Stephen Vogt both homered and Milwaukee increased its surprising NL Central lead, topping New York.

The Brewers have won nine of 11. At 50-41, they go into the All-Star break in first place for the fifth time in franchise history, 5 1/2 games ahead of the reigning World Series champion Chicago Cubs and St. Louis.

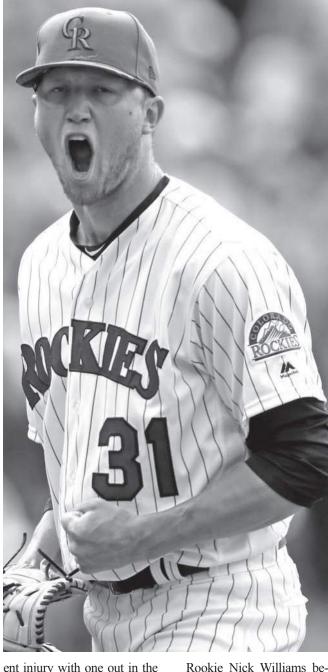
The Yankees (45-41) have not won a series since June 9-11 and are 3 1/2 games behind first-place Boston in the AL East.

Nationals 10, Braves 5

In Washington, Anthony Rendon reached base four times, the Washington bullpen allowed two runs over 5 2/3 innings, and the Nationals beat Atlanta.

Rendon scored twice and drove in a pair as the Nationals salvaged a split of the fourgame series with the Braves to enter the All-Star break with a 9 1/2-game lead over Atlanta in the NL East.

Washington starter Joe Ross left the game with an appar-



ent injury with one out in the fourth.

Tigers 5, Indians 3

In Cleveland, Michael Fulmer outpitched All-Star teammate Corey Kluber and Alex Presley hit a tiebreaking, two-run double and Detroit hung on late to salvage the series finale with Cleveland.

Fulmer (9-6) dominated Cleveland's lineup until the seventh, when he gave up a two-run homer to Indians All-Star Jose Ramirez.

Detroit's shaky bullpen barely held together over the last three innings. Shane Green worked out of a bases-loaded threat in the seventh and Justin Wilson did the same in the eighth while getting five outs for his 10th save in 11 tries.

Fulmer won't pitch for the AL in Miami on Tuesday night, so he made the most of a nationally televised matchup against Kluber by beating the Central-leading Indians. He held Cleveland to one run and three hits over the first six innings and won his third start in a row.

Phillies 7, Padres 1

In Philadelphia, Freddy Galvis hit two of his team's six home runs, Jerad Eickhoff threw five shutout innings, and Philadelphia topped San Diego. Rookie Nick Williams began the run of homers with his first in the majors during the second inning.

Cameron Rupp followed two batters later with another solo homer and Galvis hit a two-run shot in the third inning. Odubel Herrera and Aaron Altherr added solo home runs in sixth and seventh innings respectively and Galvis went back-to-back after Altherr's for his second of the game.

Cardinals 6, Mets 0

In St. Louis, Tommy Pham, Paul DeJong and Luke Voit homered and Lance Lynn pitched seven innings of threehit ball to help St. Louis beat New York.

It was Lynn's longest outing since May 23, when he threw 123 pitches in eight scoreless innings in a 2-1 loss to Clayton Kershaw and the Dodgers. Lynn's two strikeouts is a season low, but he needed just 93 pitches while facing two batters over the minimum.

Lynn (7-6) did not allow a runner past first and lowered his ERA to 3.61.

Trevor Rosenthal struck out the side in the eighth and John Brebbia pitched a scoreless ninth as the Cardinals finished a 6-4 homestand and moved into a tie with the Chicago Cubs for second place in the Colorado Rockies pitcher Kyle Freeland reacts after striking out Chicago White Sox's Willy Garcia to end the top of the eighth inning of a baseball game Sunday, July 9, 2017, in Denver.

National League Central.

Marlins 10, Giants 8

In San Francisco, Giancarlo Stanton homered twice, the second coming after A.J. Ellis' tiebreaking two-run home run in the 11th inning, and Florida held on to beat San Francisco.

Miami blew a 7-4 lead when the Giants scored three runs off Kyle Barraclough in the eighth before Ellis and Stanton lifted the Marlins in extra innings.

J.T. Realmuto reached on shortstop Brandon Crawford's throwing error leading off the 11th. After JT Riddle flew out, Ellis hit a tiebreaking two-run home run. It was Ellis' first career pinch hit home run.

Stanton, who homered in the fifth off starter Johnny Cueto, then tacked on No. 26 against George Kontos (0-3).

The Marlins head into the All-Star break having won five of six.

Reds 2, Diamondbacks 1

In Phoenix, Homer Bailey went 6 2/3 strong innings, Scott Schebler doubled in the go-ahead run and Cincinnati beat Arizona, sending the Diamondbacks to their fifth loss in six games.

Bailey (2-2) gave up a run on seven hits in his fourth start since returning from February surgery to remove small bone spurs from his elbow. He struck out five and walked four.

A.J. Pollock homered for Arizona, his first since a sixweek stint on the disabled list with a groin injury. Patrick Corbin (6-9) allowed two runs in six innings but took the loss. The left-hander scattered seven hits and matched his season high with nine strikeouts.

Raisel Iglesias pitched a perfect ninth for his 16th save in 17 tries.

Rays 5, Red Sox 3

In St. Petersburg, Fla., Brad Miller hit a tiebreaking, two-run homer in the eighth inning and Tampa Bay took three of the four from AL East-leading Boston.

Miller connected with two outs off Joe Kelly (3-1), sending a drive over the center field wall. Kelly had made a careerbest 23 straight scoreless appearances.

Brad Boxberger (1-0) worked out of a two-on, two-out jam in the eighth before Alex Colome got three outs for his 25th save.

Tampa Bay, at 47-43, has 13

more wins than last year at the All-Star break and trails the Red Sox by 3 1/2 games.

Orioles 11, Twins 5

In Minneapolis, Adam Jones homered twice and drove in five runs to lead a 15-hit attack in Baltimore's victory over Minnesota.

Ruben Tejada and Seth Smith each had three hits for the Orioles, who won their second straight and earned a split of the weekend series.

Max Kepler had a double and a triple and Robbie Grossman drove in two runs for Minnesota, which reached the All-Star break at 45-43. It's only the second time in the past seven seasons the Twins have been above .500 at the break.

Ubaldo Jimenez (4-4) worked five innings for his third win in his past five starts. He allowed four runs in the second inning, but otherwise held off the Twins. Kyle Gibson (5-7) was the loser.

Angels 3, Rangers 0

In Arlington, Texas, J.C. Ramirez outpitched All-Star Yu Darvish and Albert Pujols hit his 604th career home run as four Anaheim pitchers combined to beat Texas.

Ramirez (8-7) allowed two hits in six innings. Angels relievers allowed only one walk with Bud Norris earning his 13th save with a perfect ninth inning.

Ramirez made his 16th straight start since mid-April after his previous 108 career appearances in the major leagues were in relief. The 28-year-old was moved into the starting rotation after Los Angeles lost multiple starters to injury.

Darvish (6-8) gave up two runs while pitching 7 1/3 innings. He allowed three hits, fanning six and walking four in a start that cost him a potential appearance in Tuesday night's All-Star Game.

Mariners 4, Athletics O

In Seattle, Felix Hernandez rediscovered some of his past form allowing two hits over six dominant innings, and Nelson Cruz hit his 17th home run of the season to lift Seattle past Oakland.

Making his fourth start since coming off the disabled list late last month, Hernandez had the best command of his pitches perhaps all season.

Hernandez struck out a season-high eight, including a stretch with four of five outs retired via the strikeout in the fourth and fifth innings. Hernandez had better separation in the speeds between his fastball in the low-90s and a changeup in the mid-80s and an excellent curveball.

'Thank you': Chris Bosh writes an open letter to Miami



Chris Bosh has written an open letter to Miami, thanking the city for supporting him for the past seven years.

Bosh published the letter on Sunday, without any mention of his current health or plans for his future. He was waived by the Heat last week, and hasn't been able to play in an NBA game since February 2016.

Bosh's career has been interrupted by blood clots; one shut him down at the All-Star break in the 2014-15 season, another shut him down at the All-Star break again a year later. He failed his preseason physical with the Heat last September and missed all of last season, and it is unclear if he will pursue a return to the court elsewhere.

Under league rules, he cannot play for the Heat again.

But in his letter, Bosh chose to reflect more on the good times he had since joining the Heat in 2010 and playing such a huge role in the team going

to the NBA Finals in four consecutive seasons and winning two championships.

"I've been reflecting on my time in this great city and want to thank you for being a constant during a period of change in my life," Bosh wrote. "I've experienced a few finals appearances, a couple of championships, several weddings (including my own), the birth of four kids, bonding with an entire community and a ton of ups and downs along the way."

Bosh immersed himself in Miami's rich Latino culture. He knew some Spanish when he joined the Heat, and he's learned quite a bit more since, he said - noting that the language skills will be a tool he can use the rest of his life.

"Learning how to order a cafe con leche o ropa vieja on Calle Ocho has become natural to me," Bosh wrote.

Bosh has played in 13 NBA seasons, seven with Toronto and then six with Miami. He was part of Miami's massive free-agent haul in 2010, in which the Heat not only kept



Dwyane Wade but landed

Bosh did not mention blood

how his six-day hospital stay for the clot and other issues in 2015 still affects his overall perspective.

"And then came not being able to play the game I love, the game that I've spent a lifetime working to master and evolve with and find success in," Bosh wrote. "I was very upset for a long time. They say you just have to play the cards that you're dealt and that's another lesson I truly understand now. Learning that information about my health during All-Star Weekend was extremely tough."

In this Feb. 3, 2016, file photo, Miami Heat forward Chris Bosh reacts to a call during the second half of an NBA basketball game against the Dallas Mavericks, in Dallas.

Bosh returned to the game as an analyst for Turner Sports late last season, and there have been talks about him continuing to work in television. He will be paid the remaining \$52.1 million from the last two years of his contract, but that money will no longer count against Miami's salary-cap obligations-and that enabled the team to sign other players to free-agent deals last week.

Even though he has been deemed to have a career-ending condition, Bosh could play again if he chooses to and if a team gives him medical clearance. Getting such clearance would be, at best, daunting.

"I've learned how to dream again," Bosh wrote. "I've learned how to appreciate the game of basketball and all the things I've experienced even more now. ... We went through life together, Miami. You showed me how to stay strong and push through in the toughest moments. And although I didn't like it at the time, it made all the difference in the long run. It made me a better man, the person I am today. Thank you."

NBA BRIEFS

Sixers: No. 1 overall pick Fultz done for summer with sprain

LAS VEGAS (AP)—No. 1 overall pick Markelle Fultz will miss the rest of the NBA summer league because of a sprained left ankle. The Philadelphia 76ers say Fultz is expected to return to basketball activities in one to two weeks. Fultz tweeted Sunday: "I'm ok, thank you for all who where worried!" Fultz appeared to roll his ankle in Saturday night's game and was helped to the locker room by two teammates. He had just signed his contract earlier in the day and was taken for X-rays. The former Washington star had eight points in 15 minutes. It was the last thing the Sixers wanted to see just when they appeared ready to put years of misery behind them. They have dealt with significant injuries to center Joel Embiid and last year's No. 1 pick, Ben Simmons, over the last three years. The 76ers pulled off a trade with Boston before the draft to move up from No. 3 to No. 1 to take Fultz, the dynamic scoring point guard that team president Bryan Colangelo felt was the perfect piece to put with Simmons and Embiid.

AP source: Mavs, Nowitzki agree on 2-year, \$10 million deal

DALLAS (AP)—Dirk Nowitzki has a deal with the Dallas Mavericks that sets him up to join Kobe Bryant as the only players to spend 20 seasons with one NBA franchise. Nowitzki and the Mavericks have agreed on a two-year, \$10 million contract that carries a team option in the second season, a person with knowledge of the deal said Thursday on condition of anonymity because a deal hasn't been announced. The agreement is similar to the one the Mavs and Nowitzki reached last year, although for significantly less money. Last year's contract was for two years and \$50 million, and the club declined its option before free agency opened this year. The 39-year-old Nowitzki is no longer the primary option for the Mavericks, so a \$5 million deal is more in line with his role on a roster that has become significantly younger since the start of last season. The \$25 million salary from a year ago was as much about Dallas paying Nowitzki for his loyalty, which included taking less money to help acquire free agents through the years. Bryant retired following the 2015-16 season, his 20th with the Los Angeles Lakers. He was the fifth player to spend at least 20 years in the NBA. Nowitzki doesn't seem to have ruled out playing past the coming season. At the NBA awards show last week, he hinted as much during his acceptance speech for the teammate of the year award.

LeBron James to form the core of a superteam. Bosh has averaged 19.2 points and 8.5 rebounds in his career, and the Heat announced they are retiring his No. 1 jersey.

clots in his letter, but discussed

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)— Kevin Pritchard's aggressive offseason was derailed by Paul George's decision.

So the team's new president of basketball operations went all in on Plan B. He needs it to pay off.

On Friday, Pritchard talked about using the two young players acquired in last week's deal with Oklahoma City as being key elements in a rebuilding project that will likely be the defining moment of his tenure.

"Paul was not staying beyond this year and we had no chance. I thought we were in a good place, but at the end of the day he wanted to be with another team," Pritchard said in his first public comments since word leaked about the deal. "We have to move on. It's like a rebirth for the franchise."

Or a major rebuild.

The conventional wisdom around the league is that the Pacers didn't get enough in return for a 27-year-old, fourtime All-Star who is still in the prime of his career.

Once George's camp let the whole basketball world know he intended to sign with his hometown Los Angeles Lakers in free agency next summer, his value dropped and put Pritchard in a bind.

"Could you have gotten more?" Pritchard said when asked if George would have kept his plans private. "Absolutely."

Of all those enticing trade rumors, Pritchard estimated only about 5 percent were actually true.

But rather than gamble on future draft picks and start completely start from scratch. the Pacers did the next best thing—bringing in 25-yearold guard Victor Oladipo and 21-year-old forward Domantas Sabonis.

Both are former lottery picks who Pritchard believes will become starters and will team with promising thirdyear center Myles Turner to give the Pacers a viable longterm nucleus.

The good news for Pacers fans is that in a watered-down Eastern Conference, with only four established playoff teams, everyone else, including Indiana, is in some form of rebuild mode.

"People want to know are we a playoff team?" coach Nate McMillan said. "Kevin's going to build this team, but I can tell you as a coach, we always play to win."

Pritchard may just be warm-

ing up, too.

At a news conference to introduce the Pacers' newest additions - Oladipo, Sabonis and free agent guard Darren Collison-Pritchard said he was hoping to add a small forward before the end of the weekend.

Less than three hours later, a person with knowledge of the situation said the Washington Wizards had renounced the rights to free agent Bojan Bogdanovic so he could agree to a two-year, \$21 million deal with the Pacers. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because it had not yet been announced.

Bogdanovic is considered one of Europe's top shooters and could contribute immediately in George's old spot.

"My guess is we'll add one more wing, who we're having conversations with right now," Pritchard said before the deal was finalized.

The trade market remains open, too, and Pritchard has already demonstrated he's not afraid to change the norms.

He waived guard Monta Ellis on Thursday, ridding the Pacers of a 12-year veteran who had lost his starting job and a twoyear deal worth more than \$11 million per season.

Pacers looking toward future after dealing Paul George And he took a shot on Collison, the point guard who had a rugged season in Sacramento and who played with the Pacers from 2010-12.

> "We still have some positions to fill but you look at Darren and Vic and they are a perfect fit," McMillan said. "I intend to let them go and play their game. I think defensively, they'll get after it. I love their motors and you just have to let them go."

> But what Pritchard really wanted was a bright future.

> He wanted young veterans who still had room to grow.

> He chased guys he could keep in town for a few years.

> He avoided overpriced contracts or the notion he had to completely start over and instead has a roster that still needs some fine-tuning but could make the playoffs.

> "We looked at a lot of different models, some where you got really bad, some that would have gotten you toward the middle and some that would have capped you out and you might not make the playoffs," Pritchard said. "We think we can be very competitive next year and we feel like we have a team that can grow over the next two years."

Federer, Djokovic wonder if Wimbledon courts can improve

LONDON (AP)—With a week still to go, Wimbledon's grass courts already are not the lush lawns players—and TV viewers—are accustomed to seeing early in the tournament.

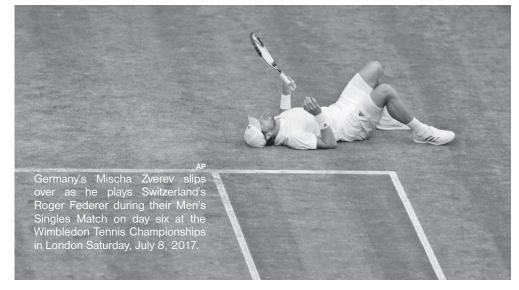
Novak Djokovic noticed the ball bouncing differently in some patches.

Roger Federer and his opponent slipped during their third-round match.

The two past champions are wondering what sort of work can be done on the middle Sunday, when there is no competition, so the court conditions improve when action resumes with all 16 fourthround singles matches scheduled for Monday.

"The first two matches I didn't see any significant difference. But I was hearing a lot of comments from the other players. They were complaining. Especially on the outside courts," Djokovic said after beating Ernests Gulbis in straight sets at Centre Court on Saturday.

"Today, I could see there is a difference in grass, in (the) turf itself. It was a bit softer, I would say, especially around a couple of feet inside and outside, around the baseline area," said Djokovic, a threetime champion at the All England Club. "I haven't had that



kind of experience before in to see is horrible injuries."

Wimbledon, to be honest. I mean, the courts are always perfect here."

Federer followed Djokovic on Centre Court and described it as "a tad slippery" after losing his footing during one point in a victory over Mischa Zverev, who also took a tumble.

"But I didn't feel like it was unsafe," said Federer, who has won seven of his record 18 major titles at Wimbledon. "Maybe you don't want players to feel that way, because the moment you become scared of moving properly, it's really difficult to play, I must admit. The last thing we want

Some players voiced concerns about the court conditions over the opening week, including Kristina Mladenovic of France and Alison Riske of the

United States, who each fell early during their secondround match on Court 18 on Thursday.

Riske, who won the match, said afterward that the dirt "is like ice."

Measurements taken throughout Wimbledon's first week show the grass courts are as healthy as they have been in recent years, according to Neil Stubley, the head the All England Club. "We looked at the baselines

of courts and horticulture at

and the areas that they thought there was an issue," Stubley said. "We didn't feel there was. The Grand Slam supervisor and assistant referee didn't believe that there was either. When you look at the comparisons of other courts ... they were in or around the same condition as the other courts."

Very little rain has fallen over the first six days of the tournament, which Stubley said led to more wear on the courts.

Still, although he acknowledged the courts are under stress, he said there's "not a doubt" they will hold up throughout Wimbledon's second week.

"Because we have daily monitoring, we can keep a very tight rein on every-

TEEN

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thing," he said. "It never gets to the point where it's ever going to get away from us because we're on top of it every single day."

Still, Djokovic was sure that something wasn't quite the same as in the past.

"I'm sure they know what they're doing. They know their job the best in the world. But you can see that there is a slight difference in the quality of the grass," he said. "This year seems like it's a bit softer."

Schauffele birdies final hole to win Greenbrier Classic

SPRINGS, W.Va. (AP)—A late month helped

prepare Xander Greenbrier. Schauffele for the nerve-racking grind of chasing a title on the PGA Tour.

The rookie made a 3-foot birdie putt on the final hole Sunday to win The Greenbrier Classic by a stroke over Robert Streb for his first tour victory.

Schauffele closed with a 3-under 67 and finished at 14-under 266 to cap a daylong duel with Streb and third-round leader Sebastian Munoz.

Streb shot 69. Munoz had a 72 to tie for third with Jamie Lovemark at 12 under. Lovemark shot 69.

23-year-old The Schauffele, who took up golf after giving up soccer because his coaches wanted him to switch from offense to defense, tied for fifth in his first U.S. Open at Erin Hills.

"The U.S. Open was a

SULPHUR huge moment in my career," Schauffele said. "It was one strong finish in the U.S. Open of the biggest stages, and for

> me to be calm and collected throughout the week and just kind of hang on and tie for fifth

was huge for me mentally. It kind of gave me the confidence and allowed me to play to win this week."

Watching fellow youngster Jon Rahm of Spain win the Irish Open earlier Sunday also served as motivation for Schauffele, who shot from 94th to 27th in the FedEx Cup standings.

"Everybody knows I'm a late bloomer," Schauffele said. "To jump into the top 30 is something special for me."

Schauffele, Streb, Munoz and Lovemark earned spots in the British Open in two weeks. The leading four players not already exempt from the top-12 finishers qualified. Russell Henley was the only player among the top 10 finishers who already was in.

CRUZ

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al Championships and Pacific Oceania Junior Championships in the past.

In the lawn tennis in Turkmenistan, Cruz and Villanueva will be facing representatives from the 45 member-countries of the Olympic Council of Asia plus players from member countries of the Oceania National Olympic Committees. All 19 members of ONOC are invited to the Asian Indoor for the first time and as a regular competitor, they are eligible to win medals.

"Whatever the outcome, it'll be a rich experience overall. I feel exponentially blessed to have this opportunity, so I want to do well to make the CNMI proud," said Cruz, who is busy preparing physically and mentally for the tournament.

"The CNMI's presence at events like this is important, so my partner, Moris Villanueva, and I will do our absolute best. Moris and I have been on the tennis courts almost every day. We've also been cross training. Recently, I've personally gotten a huge support from my buddy Jerry Diaz, who is an outstanding trainer and motivator. I have also received help from my paddling teammates from MOC, especially Jack Kabriel, who push me to train hard when I'm not on the court. There's more technical and mental tuning that needs

to be done, so I'll be reaching out to coach Jeff Race for support," Cruz said.

Race nominated Cruz and Villanueva to the Asian Indoor when Northern Marianas Sports Association received an invitation from the host country through ONOC.

Besides lawn tennis, which will be played at the indoor Tennis Centre of Ashgabat, 19 other events will also be contested in the Asian Indoor. The list includes bowling, chess, billiards, cycling, dancesports, taekwondo, equestrian, futsal, indoor athletics, jiujitsu, muay Thai, kickboxing, kurash, sambo, swimming (short course), weightlifting, wrestling, belt wrestling, and traditional wrestling.

Ol'Aces-Natibu tiff along with the second semis game between the 670 Sonics XVI and NMI/DYS Rollers will be reported in Saipan Tribune's Wednesday edition. Winners of the pair of Final Four matches vesterday will duel for the title tomorrow night.

Natibu Warriors 48 - H. Aguon 13, R. Sulap 9, Kainoa 8, Fejeran 8, Garde 4, Omar 2, Torres 2, Malwelbug 2

670 Sonics XVIII 47 -Malasarte 15, Paragados 14, Bernardo 6, Chavez 4, Aque 4, Lagmay 2, Diyco 2.

Scoring by quarters: 20-9, 27-27, 39-36, 46-46, 48-47.

coach and Northern Mariana Islands Football Association technical director Michiteru Mita was happy with their offense, he was more proud on how his wards played on the defensive end. "The boys did well yesterday (Sunday) and we had some lucky goals, but what is

defense," Mita said. The Teen Ayuyus coach, who is assisted by Jonathan Takano and Jershwin Angeles, also noted the squad's good rotation of players.

good is that we didn't concede

any goal with the 11 players

on the field very persistent on

"We changed 10 players since our first game against Guam and all players played in the last two matches. All players gained official game experience under a good facility," Mita added.

Versus Dededo FC/Wings FC U15, goalkeeper John Martin Palad started out for the Teen Ayuyus and were joined on the pitch by defenders Jhoey Noble, Mark Twain Salamat, Reginal Pascual, and Ian Maniago, midfielders Waldo, Rojas, Cho, and

Razeff Altamirano, and forwards Taka Borja and Aloyzeus Angeles. Completing the 22-player squad managed by Rodwealth Espana are goalies Floyd Muna and Jason Quimzon, defenders Ichiro Borja, Eunsyu Hahn, and Terrance Montenegro, midfielders Kirt Andon, John Guiller Canape, Sebastian Manabat, Joshua Mendez, and Joseph Rasa, and forward Mark Esalan.

Meanwhile, the Teen Ayuyus were scheduled to duel anew the Guam U16 Boys National Team yesterday afternoon, but results of the match were unavailable at press time. The visiting team will then play one more training game today before returning to Saipan this evening.

The friendly matches are part of the CNMI U15 Boys National Team's five-day training camp, which aims to prepare the squad for its campaign in the AFC U16 Championship 2018 Qualifiers. The Asian Football Confederation tournament will run from Sept. 16 to 24 this year in Thailand with the Teen Ayuyus playing against the host country. Indonesia. Laos, and Timor-Leste for a spot to the finals that will take place next year.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division Boston .502 — .523 3½ .522 3½ .477 7½ 45 47 41 43 New York Tampa Bay 42 46 Baltimore .466 81/2 Toronto

Central Division						
Cleveland	47	40	.540	_		
Minnesota	45	43	.511	21		
Kansas City	44	43	.506	3		
Detroit	39	48	.448	8		
Chicago	38	49	.437	9		
ŭ						

West Division Houston Los Angeles 45 .489 161/2 Texas

NATIONAL LEAGUE

vasnington	52	36	.591	_	
Atlanta	42	45	.483	91/2	
∕liami	41	46	.471	101/2	
New York	39	47	.453	12	
Philadelphia	29	58	.333	221/2	
·					

Central Division 45 .489 5½ .472 7 43 42 39 St. Louis Pittsburgh .443 91/2 Cincinnati

os Angeles	61	29	.678	_
rizona	53	36	.596	71/2
Colorado	52	39	.571	91/2
an Diego	38	50	.432	22
an Francisco	34	56	.378	27

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NATIBU

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forth with Aguon's 4 straight points saving the day for Natibu, as he sent the game in overtime. Malasarte and Ronald Bernardo combined for 8 points for the Sonics XVIII in the fourth quarter to keep their team afloat.

Malasarte also scored the first basket in the extension after splitting his charity, but that was it for Sonics XVIII, as it struggled the rest of the while Kainoa knocked in the most important shot in the game to bring Natibu to the semifinals.

The No. 5 seed Natibu was

the first semis game yesterday and was pressured to make headway as the latter opened a 37-14 advantage at halftime. The Ol'Aces limited Natibu to 4 points in the first quarter to establish an early doubledigit lead. Rawhoo Sulap then scored 6 points in the second period to surpass Natibu's low output in the first, however these were not enough to prevent the heavily favored Ol'Aces from keeping their sizeable lead. Coby Santos had 10 points for the Ol'Aces in the first half.

playing pennant champion

and top-ranked Ol'Aces in

The final results of the

TUESDAY, JULY 11, 2017 **27** SAIPAN TRIBUNE

SSC Members at North Shore Swim Series

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS



David Boyer runs to the finish line during last weekend's North Shore Swim Series 3, a 1.8-mile swim from Jaco's Chun to Waimea



Jinju Thompson nears completion of the open water swim.





Saipan Swim Club swimmers pose for a photo after completing the race.



Kento Akimaru is directed to the



Taiyo Akimaru smiles as he is almost done with the race.



The five male Saipan Swim Club members and another participant wait for the other finishers.



Jinnosuke Suzuki is on his way to a first place finish in the boys 11

to 12 age group.



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'Thank you': Chris Bosh writes an open letter to Miami

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Natibu completes semis cast



By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

he Natibu Warriors caught the last bus to the semifinals of the boys U18 division of the 2017 Francisco M. Diaz Memorial Youth League after slipping past the 670 Sonics XVIII in overtime, 48-47, last Friday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

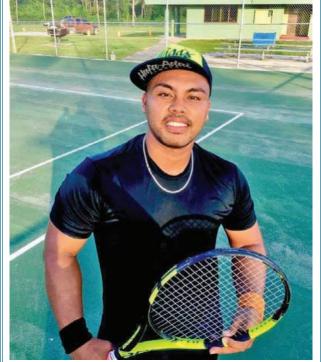
Kekuni Kainoa made the go-ahead

basket with less than a minute left in the extension, while the 670 Sonics XVIII failed to convert a couple of attempts in the remainder of the game to fall short in its bid to pull off a come-from-behind win.

Natibu was forced to play five more minutes in the battle for the last semis ticket despite taking early control of the match. Henry Aguon dropped 8 of his team-high 13 points in the opening period to lift Natibu to a 20-11 advantage. The Sonics XVIII then picked up its scoring in the second canto with Jerome Malasarte drilling 6 of his 15 points in that quarter and drawing enough support from his teammates to knot the count at the break,

At the resumption of the game, Natibu regained the upper hand, 39-36, after getting contribution from five different players and giving up no In the fourth canto, the opfield goal to Malasarte and posing teams went back and holding Roberto Paragados to one basket in the third frame.

See NATIBU on Page 26



Bobby Cruz poses for a photo during a break in his training session at the American Memorial Park courts early this month.

Cruz, Villanueva off to Turkmenistan

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com REPORTER

Bobby Cruz and Moris Villanueva will again don the colors of the CNMI as they are selected to represent the Commonwealth to the 2017 Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games.

The two players will compete in the lawn tennis event of the Asian Indoor, which will be held in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan from Sept. 17 to 27.

It's always a great honor to represent the CNMI. The chance to compete in the 2017 Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games is going to be an awesome challenge

given the level of competition," said Cruz in an interview with Saipan Tribune.

Cruz played for the Commonwealth during the 2017

Micronesian Games in Palau and helped Team CNMI rule the tennis competition against longtime rival Guam,

Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Marshall Islands. Last year, he also joined Micronesian Cup in Palau with his team— Marianas Outrigger Clubsweeping all the men's categories. Villanueva, on the other hand, played for the CNMI Junior Tennis Team in the North Pacific Region-

See CRUZ on Page 26

Teen Ayuyus win second training match

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The CNMI U15 Boys National Team prevailed in its second training match, blanking the mixed players of Dededo FC/ Wings FC U15, 5-0, last Sunday at the Guam Football Association National Training Center.

Guam-based Eddie Cho played against his own club (Wings FC) and led the Teen Ayuyus shutout victory after knocking in a pair of goals, one each in the first and second half. John Michael Rojas and Joshua Allen Waldo contributed one goal apiece for the visiting squad, which also got an own goal off their opponents' miscue. The CNMI U15 Boys National Team took a 2-0 halftime edge against the Dededo FC/Wings FC ing its foes to get its

U15 and played better offense in the second half, while still blankdrew the Guam U16

Boys National Team, 2-2. While Teen Ayuyus head

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The CNMI Boys U15 National Team players respond to assistant coach Jonathan Takano during a classroom session in their training camp in Guam last weekend.